

# Dr Owen not to seek reselection by Labour

The rift in the Labour Party deepened last night when Dr David Owen, one of the so-called "gang of four" who have formed the Council for Social Democracy, told his constituency party that he would not stand as the official party candidate in the next election. But he did not indicate whether he would fight the seat as a social democratic candidate.

## Statement cites party swing to left

By Fred Emery  
Political Editor

Dr David Owen last night took another step towards leaving the Labour Party when he announced that he would not stand as the official party candidate at the next election in his Plymouth, Devonport, constituency. The former Foreign Secretary left it unclear whether he would contest the seat as a social democratic candidate.

In a statement prepared for his local management committee, Dr Owen said that he was remaining a member of the Labour Party until he had decided whether or not to join a new party. He did not intend to be rushed into any decision, but in an indication that he might remain in the Commons even after joining a new party, he said that he would continue to represent the seat throughout the life of this Parliament.

From what is known of Dr Owen's thinking and that of the other members of Labour's "gang of four" who last Sunday formed the Council for Social Democracy, a decision whether to turn it into a new party will be taken in the summer.

Dr Owen, who retained his seat in a close fight at the 1979 general election, said it was ironic that the Boundary Commission should now be proposing changes that would make Devonport a safer Labour seat.

He made it clear that nothing in the Shadow Cabinet's determination to reverse the decision of the special party conference on electing the leader, had altered his view of the party's swing to the left. Pain and sadness: Dr Owen's move follows the resignation earlier this week from the Shadow Cabinet of Mr William Rodgers, and the announcement last year by Mrs Shirley Williams that she did not wish to be considered as future Labour candidate for her former constituency (the Press Association reports).

Dr Owen said that he was deeply disappointed that the party had not been able to win the last election. He said that he was a deeply painful moment. Many of us have worked closely together over the years in a spirit of friendship and good comradeship.

# S Africans attack targets in Maputo

From Nicholas Ashford  
Johannesburg, Jan 30

A commando raid by South African forces against targets in a suburb of Maputo, the capital of Mozambique, has added a dangerous dimension to the tensions which already exist between South Africa and its black neighbours.

Today's raid was the first such attack by South Africa against Mozambique since the left-wing Frelimo Government came to power in 1975.

The attack, which took place at about 2 am, was directed at three houses occupied by members of the African National Congress (ANC), a militant black nationalist organisation which is banned in South Africa. Its leader, Mr Nelson Mandela, is serving a life sentence on Robben Island.

Thirteen people were killed in the raid; eleven were occupants of the houses, one was a white member of the commando force and one was a Portuguese technician who was killed while travelling to the port suburb of Matola, where he worked.

According to General Constant Viljoen, chief of the South African Defence Force, the three houses contained the planning and control headquarters for the nationalist organisation in Maputo. He said the raid included "senior commanders and terrorists" belonging to the ANC.

However, it was claimed in Maputo that the houses were occupied by South African refugees who are complaining about the Government's policy to provide refuge for members of the ANC, but not to allow them to use Mozambique's territory for training purposes or as a springboard for guerrilla activities against South Africa.

General Viljoen said the raid was a warning to South Africa's neighbours to fear for their safety. He said they protected anti-South African guerrillas.

According to Mozambique, the South African force travelled to its target by land. The distance from the South African border to Maputo is only 30 miles. Maputo, where the houses were situated, is about nine miles south-west of the capital.

According to a western diplomat, who was taken to witness the effects of the raid, the commandos had used rockets, mortars and machine guns.

The South African attack has caused considerable surprise in diplomatic circles here and in Mozambique.

"A foul act", Lieutenant-General Armando Guebuza, the Mozambique Deputy Prime Minister, called the raid "a foul and criminal act". He said the attack was a challenge to Mozambique's right to shelter South African citizens "being persecuted by the apartheid regime". (Reuters reports from Maputo).



Ticker-tape parade: Confetti and ticker-tape rain down on the convoy of 22 former embassy hostages being given a traditional New York welcome yesterday.

Thousands of cheering New Yorkers braved icy winds to watch the parade. Many were schoolchildren, waving American flags and wearing yellow ribbons—the symbol of freedom (Michael Leapman writes).

More than 600 miles of ticker-tape was given to the city by two firms who make it. At City Hall, the 22 heroes were greeted by Mr Edward Koch, the Mayor, and given ceremonial keys to the city.

Mr Barry Rosen, one of the New Yorkers among the hostages, called the crowd's enthusiasm "incomprehensible, unbelievable".

# Tentative accord on free Saturdays reported by Solidarity

Warsaw, Jan 30.—Government officials and leaders of Solidarity, the independent trade union movement, were reported today to have reached a tentative accord on the free Saturday issue in talks aimed at ending Poland's sharpening labour conflict.

During a recess in the negotiations, a representative of Rural Solidarity, the still unregistered farmers' union, who was permitted to talk to delegates, said a "sort of agreement" on shortening working time was achieved.

He quoted negotiators, who included eight union leaders and five peasant strike leaders, as saying that one point of the agenda—the problem of censorship and union access to the mass media—was adjourned for subsequent discussion.

Another controversial topic, the registration of Rural Solidarity, was apparently to be dealt with upon the resumption of the talks at the Council of Ministers meeting late tonight. No reporters were permitted inside the building.

According to Polish television, that access to the conference hall before the start of the meeting, Mr Lech Walesa, the head of Solidarity's negotiating team, said he wanted the three central points treated as "a package".

He told the television reporters: "We know that when decisions are taken on these matters, it will solve the problem (as a whole) and we will be able to work quietly and honestly... We don't want further escalation of tension," he said, adding that the talks would last "until they are successful".

Polish television ran a commentary condemning the strikes in the south-west of the country and referred to Solidarity's call for the strikes to end. "We must stop creating social tension—this point of view is shared by the Solidarity leadership", it said.

"For the working class the word Solidarity has a special emotional sense but the working class will cut itself off from all those who tried to make from the word an instrument of political battle. Anti-socialist forces are pushing some local Solidarity branches into the blind road of negation", the commentary added.

A Solidarity official in Jelenia Gora said a sit-in strike at the main industrial plants began as planned today at 8 am. Public transport also stopped and only essential services were operating.

The Government has undertaken to send a negotiating team to the province on Monday. But the union said the strike would continue until an agreement had been signed on a list of demands which include the dismissal of the Union Affairs Minister and some 11 local officials.

Meanwhile, Polish journalists warned both sides against "all attempts to apply any violent solutions" in ending the labour conflicts. They said permanent negotiations were "the only way out of the crisis threatening to turn into a catastrophe".

A letter issued by the Polish journalists' Guild and carried by the official news agency PAP, appeared to express most concern over the danger of possible violence. It urged "moderation and responsibility".

The state prosecutor's office today issued a statement reinforcing last night's warning by the Government that anarchy was imminent.

It reminded Poles that such activities as slandering state officials and political organisations, occupying public buildings, denying workers access to factories and issuing uncensored publications carried jail sentences of between one and 15 years.—AP, UPI and Reuters.

# 15,000 laid off after Ford drivers strike

By Edward Townsend

A strike by 440 Ford lorry drivers who are claiming about a curtailment of foreign trips and the loss, among other things, of the chance to buy duty-free goods, yesterday caused the lay-off of about 15,000 workers in the company's southern and Midlands plants.

Production of Corinas, Fiesta and Transit vans was brought to a halt and the company gave warning that more workers could be laid next week if the strike continued.

The only big plant not yet affected is the one at Halewood, Merseyside. Operations at the Ford tractor factory at Basildon, Essex, are to be reviewed on Monday.

The strikers, who are due to meet national union officials on Monday, work on the company's Dagenham site in Essex and are mainly engaged in the internal movement of parts and components. The dispute has arisen because of a reduction in the number of trips being made by the drivers between Dagenham and the Ford plant at Genk, Belgium.

Ford said yesterday that the drivers had become used to making about five journeys to the Continent each week.

The cut in foreign visits became a "sensitive issue" when the company employed an outside contractor last week to deliver an emergency consignment of parts to Genk.

They said that the drivers' earnings had not been affected substantially by the reduction, nor had there been a cut in overtime. Short-time working or redundancies were not envisaged among the drivers.

But they added, the drivers now were not able to claim certain allowances and could not buy duty-free goods with the same regularity as in the past.

Mr Ronald Todd, national officer for the Transport and General Workers' Union and the Ford unions' chief negotiator, is to address the strikers on Monday and later meet management officials.

Lay-offs have so far affected 9,000 employees at Dagenham, about 3,000 at the Southampton plant, and a total of a further 3,000 at the Langley, Berkshire, Woolwich, south London, Aveley, Essex, and Leamington, Warwickshire, factories.

# BL reinstates two men after 'mob' inquiry

From Clifford Webb  
Birmingham

BL yesterday accepted the findings of a joint union-management inquiry into a disturbance at its Longbridge car plant on November 21 and reinstated two of the eight workers dismissed for allegedly leading a mob.

The inquiry followed a six-day strike by 1,500 workers which cost the company £18m in lost production of Metros.

The inquiry, under an independent chairman from the Government's Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service, was unanimous in finding reasonable doubt in the evidence against Mr Maurice Jones, aged 36. He is reinstated immediately.

They were divided about the case of Mr Keith Caesar, aged 28, but the management, under pressure from union leaders, yesterday agreed to give him the benefit of the doubt. He will lose 10 days pay before returning to work.

But throughout a six-hour hearing at BL's management training centre near Warwick, Mr Harold Musgrove, chairman of Austin Morris and Rover

# Welsh river polluted by nitric acid

From Our Correspondent  
Brecon

The Welsh Water Authority last night issued a warning to the public after the pollution of a river in Gwent by 2,000 gallons of concentrated nitric acid.

A spokesman at the authority's Brecon headquarters said that members of the public were being told not to enter the Afon Llywd between Pannog and Caerleon under any circumstances.

Police with loud hollers were touring areas along the river telling people to stay clear of the water and farmers and pet owners were told to keep their animals away from the water.

The spokesman said: "This is a major pollution incident. Already there are signs of substantial fish fatalities and there has been damage to other forms of life in the river. We believe we know the source of the acid but because of the possibility of legal action we are not identifying it at present."

He said that the Afon Llywd had been a fishable river which had recently been stocked as a trout fishery.

# Mr Trudeau ignores British MPs

From John Best  
Ottawa, Jan 30

Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, says he will press on with his constitutional reform plan despite its rejection by a select committee at Westminster.

"We have taken the position that the British Parliament, according to custom, tradition and constitutional law, had to act upon a request made jointly by the Prime Minister of Canada and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. That is still our position."

Mr Trudeau was answering opposition questions in a sometimes stormy exchange triggered by the report that the select committee had strong reservations over the package.

He insisted that the position taken by the select committee is not that of the British Government and Parliament and reiterated earlier statements that he had Mrs Thatcher's promise to put on a three-line whip so as to get the measure through the British House.

The Prime Minister returned to the same theme at a press conference today. Asked whether Canada might unilaterally declare independence if Westminster does not adopt the federal plan, he said: "That won't happen because the British Parliament will act. I have the word of the Prime Minister."

Ottawa warned, page 4

# Seamen saved as ships collide in dense fog in Thames

By Staff Reporters

Two cargo ships collided off Greenwich Pier, London, last night as dense fog blanketed much of southern England. One of the vessels sank almost immediately but no lives were lost because of rescuers' prompt action.

The 1,173-ton Frederika 1, outward bound with a cargo of scrap metal, was in collision with the 500-ton Blackthorn at 7.30 pm and a number of seamen were thrown overboard into the River Thames.

Mr Alan Willis, captain of the river tug Rediff, saw the collision on radar and ordered his tug to the aid of the stricken vessels.

Mr Willis's boat picked up two of the five crew from the Frederika. "The men were very, very cold and one of them was in a very bad state," Mr Willis said.

Three others were rescued by Mr Edward Barnard, a dock pilot with Greenwich Ferries, who, with some helpers, took out a dinghy to the ships.

The five seamen were taken to Greenwich and District Hospital. One of them, an Englishman, was later allowed home. The others, two English and two Portuguese, were detained overnight suffering from exposure.

The Port of London Authority said last night that because of the fog no ship was moving in the river and he did not expect that attempts would be made to clear the obstruction.

The first light today, the Blackthorn (500 tons) listed after the collision but later righted herself and the crew, who had been taken off, were allowed to return.

Earlier, four men were lost when two ships collided in fog about 14 miles off Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.

A German cargo ship, the Ems, sank after colliding with a Belgian coaster, the Undine.

Two of the crew, believed trapped in the engine room of the Ems, were presumed dead after a helicopter search. Two others, taken to hospital by helicopter, were dead on arrival.

The Undine, which suffered serious damage, sailed on with six of the survivors to Flushing.

Herr Gerhard Koss, aged 33, who spent an hour in the sea before being rescued, said in hospital at Great Yarmouth: "Myself and three others clung to a container which was swept into the sea as the ship went down. I do not know what happened to the others. I did not see them after I was picked up. I am lucky to be alive."

The fog disrupted flights into Heathrow airport and most incoming flights were diverted to Manchester, Gatwick, Birmingham, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Paris.

At one stage the only aircraft that could land at Heathrow were Tridentes. The airport said that they were fitted with devices enabling their pilots to cope in such conditions.

The freezing fog affected the Home Counties, the south-west Midlands and Hampshire. Wiltshire and across to Wales. In Kent, Automobile Association parrots reported visibility down to 15 yards.

Police reported that drivers were persistently ignoring speed restrictions on motorways. A Hampshire officer said: "It seems they never learn. We can only pray there will not be a massive pile-up."

In London the AA reported that in central areas only one motorist in three was using headlights.

Forecast, page 2  
Photograph, page 3

# Indecency Bill given its second reading

The Indecent Displays Bill, a private member's Bill presented by Mr Timothy Sainsbury, Conservative MP for Hove, was given an unopposed second reading in the House of Commons. The legislation aimed at securing greater control over the display of offensive material, was promised the Government's assistance in its progress through Parliament.

Mr Patrick Mayhew, Minister of State, Home Office, said that the Government supported the broad objectives of the Bill.

Parliamentary report, page 10

# Private cash talks on BR electrification

A report recommends spending £1,000m on electrifying most main railway lines over the next 20 years. British Rail is holding talks with private companies and bankers with a view to private sector financing of much of the equipment for lease to the railways. The scheme would double the amount of electrified track.

Page 2

# Zimbabwe attack on British aid policy

Britain's aid policy was criticized by Zimbabwe's Finance Minister, Senator Enos Nkala, when he presented a mini-Budget in the House of Assembly. Zimbabwe was "at war with Britain over aid", he said. He would reject any aid package if London insisted on conditions.

Page 4

# Monopolies writ

Members of the National Union of Journalists at The Sunday Times are to start legal proceedings to force Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, to refer the proposed purchase of Times Newspapers Ltd by Mr Rupert Murdoch to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Page 2

# Redundancy fund rise

With the redundancy fund falling by nearly £20m a month as factories close and companies cut staff, the Government introduced a Bill to increase the amount the fund can borrow from the National Loans Fund from £40m to £300m. Labour MPs took the action as further proof that more shocks are in store as the economic decline continues.

Page 2

# Dearer drinks hint

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, hinted that taxes on alcohol and cigarettes would be raised in the March Budget. "Hardly annuals, tobacco and alcohol, have to be adjusted in the light of inflation. There is nothing unusual about that," he said.

Page 17

Home News	2, 3	Crossword	24	Religion	15, 16
European News	4	Engagements	14	TV & Radio	14
Overseas News	4	Features	12	Theatres, etc	8, 9
Appointments	9	Gardening	10	Travel	10
Bridge	17-21	Letters	13	25 Years Ago	14
Business	10	Obituary	10	Weather	12
Chess	10	Parliament	10	Snow reports	15
Court	14	Records	6		

# Fast asleep

South African Airways offers First Class passengers to South Africa the opportunity to stretch out full length and sleep in luxurious comfort on superbly-designed Stratol sleepers.

On board our Super Jumbos, Stratol sleepers make every flight a dream — the back can be adjusted to recline 70° from the vertical position and a foot-rest emerges from beneath the seat.

So after enjoying SAA's gourmet meals, fine wines and a first run movie, you can stretch out and relax while we fly you fast asleep!

For full details of our First Class facilities and our superb new Gold Class for full-fare Economy passengers, call your IATA travel agent, or SAA offices at:

251-9 Regent Street, London W1R 7AD, Tel: 01-734 9841.  
Or at Waterloo Street, Birmingham, 021-643 9605,  
Hope Street, Glasgow, 041-221 2932,  
Peter Street, Manchester, 061-634 4436.

South African Airways  
Where no-one's a stranger



## HOME NEWS

## Private money sought by BR for £1,000m electrification scheme

By Michael Bailey

Transport Correspondent

A big opportunity for private-sector involvement in the railways will arise with the publication of a joint Department of Transport/British Rail report on electrification next week. It recommends expenditure of up to £1,000m on electrifying most of BR's main lines over the next 20 years, but the Government is unlikely to approve it straight away because it wants more progress on railway productivity and viability, and is reluctant to increase public-sector spending.

As a result, talks are taking place between British Rail, the General Electric Company, British Insulated Callender's Cables and Morgan Grenfell, the bankers, on private financing of a large part of the equipment for lease to British Rail.

A formula has to be found, if the scheme is not to breach public-sector finance limits, for a substantial part of the risk to be genuinely borne by private capital.

If that hurdle can be overcome, the way should be clear

for a huge rolling programme that should see fast electric services, British Rail wants the 150mph advanced passenger train, on main-line routes to Scotland and the North, Wales and the West Country, and East Anglia by the late 1990s.

The joint study looks at four possible programmes of electrification, and favours the biggest and fastest, increasing electrified track from the present 2,500 miles to 5,800, or 52 per cent, of the 11,000-mile network.

It would take electrification from London to Aberdeen, Penzance, Holyhead, and Leeds, plus cross-country routes like Birmingham to York, Edinburgh to Glasgow, and Doncaster to Hull and Grimsby.

After completion of the London to Bedford scheme next year, the first section would probably be from Colchester to Norwich and Royston to Cambridge.

On an initial programme of £40m a year for 10 years, the study forecasts a real rate of return of more than 10 per cent, double that required of BR.

## South Wales seamen agree to free banana boats

By Paul Routledge

Labour Editor

Striking merchant seamen in South Wales yesterday agreed to lift their blacking of four banana boats in response to an appeal from the government of St Vincent, the Windward Islands devastated by Hurricane Allen last summer.

Volunteer crews will man the four vessels, owned by the Geest company and trading from Barry, and their wages will be donated to the West Indies hurricane disaster fund. The company has agreed to give profits from the sailings to that charity.

Mr Musa Nopar, a member of the Cardiff district committee of the National Union of Seamen, said: "It is not the union's intention in taking in-

dustrial action to cause misery and suffering to the people of these islands who rely on the export of bananas.

It is quite clear that they have suffered tremendously in the past two years and this is a gesture to them."

The first vessel to break the blockade of St Vincent will be the 6,000-tonne Geest Tide, which is at present strikebound in Barry docks with a cargo of fertilizer bound for the banana plantations.

The West Indian High Commission made an appeal to NUS leaders asking them to lift the blacking of the Geest line ships on humanitarian grounds.

The seamen's campaign of industrial action, nearing the end of its third week, is to continue elsewhere unabated.

## Jobless level forces redundancy fund rise

By George Clark

Political Correspondent

With the Redundancy Fund falling at the rate of nearly £20m a month as factory closures increase and more firms reduce their labour force, the Government yesterday introduced a Bill to increase the amount the fund can borrow from the National Loans Fund from the present £40m to £300m.

Of the new total, £200m can be borrowed with Treasury consent and the remaining £100m with parliamentary approval.

Labour MPs took the Government's action as further confirmation that more shocks are in store in the coming months as the industrial decline continues.

Ministers said yesterday that when public spending estimates were considered in November and December an increased figure was allowed for benefits resulting from industrial closures, but that had proved to be an underestimate.

Mr Eric Varley, MP for Chesterfield and chief opposition spokesman on employment, said last night: "It does not surprise me that the Government had to come forward with this measure. It is a sad commentary on the plight of British industry and confirms what all of us really know, that the employment position is going to deteriorate even further."

Mr Varley said it was costing the state about £5,000 a year to keep a married couple with two children at school in benefits.

Mr Michael Latham, Conservative MP for Melton, addressing Conservative women in his constituency yesterday, said he hoped there would be further significant and early cuts in the minimum leading rate, and that some tax concessions would be made to business to help employment prospects.

"If unemployment continues to rise sharply, the soaring cost of the benefits payable to the jobless will more than cancel out the cuts in government spending," he said.

The Redundancy Fund is financed by an allocation from employers' National Insurance contributions, which spreads part of the cost of making employees redundant over industry in general. It is used to pay rebates to employers who make statutory redundancy payments.

When an employer is insolvent both redundancy payments and statutory redundancy payments are paid direct from the fund. Employers who make redundancy payments above the statutory minimum bear the additional cost in full from their own resources.

The Government explained that the Bill was necessary because of the recent sharp drop in the surplus left in the fund. That has been caused mainly by the increased number of redundancies in recent months.

During 1980, £490m was paid out in statutory redundancy payments to 491,000 employees. The average payment was thus almost £1,000. The share paid from the fund was £242m.

At the end of the year the fund stood at £68m and is now falling at the rate of nearly £20m a month. Thus the present borrowing limit was likely to be exceeded in the next few months.

## Bombing exposes incompatibility between security and freedom to shop

## Ulster town is faced with an old dilemma

From Craig Seton

Portadown

A few hours after Portadown shoppers discussed with the police the danger to security posed by shoppers' unattended cars, a stolen red Corina containing a 400lb bomb blew up, shattering dozens of shops, offices, and flats in the town centre and causing damage estimated at £3m.

That was on Monday and it was the Provisional IRA's biggest single attack on Portadown. It is about two years since guarded security barriers around the town centre, which kept out all but delivery vehicles, were reopened.

It is an offence under Northern Ireland's emergency provisions for drivers to leave vehicles unattended in con-

trolled zones, such as the centre of Portadown, but on Monday evening, shortly before the explosion, a witness counted six unoccupied cars within a few yards and others said such carelessness had been common for months.

Any lowering in the general level of violence in the province brings the temptation to towns such as Portadown to reduce some of the stricter security measures. Now Portadown once again faces a familiar dilemma: how to make shopping and business safe but as easy as possible without issuing an open invitation to the bombers.

Mr George Johnston, a Portadown jeweller, who is president of the Chamber of Trade, insisted yesterday that despite

Monday's devastation, which injured 15 people, most traders still did not want to have the security barriers reinstated because of the damage that would do to trade.

The hard-pressed police had already started to take measures against offenders when the security danger posed by unattended vehicles was discussed by the chamber at its regular meeting with the police on Monday.

Mr Johnston said: "You always learn from these incidents but you cannot have a total clampdown. You must have vigilance, but not so tight that you frighten away the customers."

Nearly £370m in compensation had been paid in Northern Ireland for loss or damage to

property in 12 years, but the business community is convinced that the number of terrorist bombings is declining.

The IRA exploded six bombs on Monday night, but in some quarters there is a feeling that the campaign was an aberration. The Provisionals, such people say, were using up explosives, they had stored ready for a big operation planned to coincide with the death of the H-bomb hunger strikers. Once the hunger strike ended they had to get rid of the store of explosives quickly.

Belfast has had security gates since 1972 and the Chamber of Trade there said that, unlike many of the country, it has not seen a rise in the city's shopping centre wanted them retained.

Some enthusiasts in the grocery industry said that the product had the same texture, appearance and food value as meat at little more than half the price. It would therefore replace meat in the diet and ease international demand for grain by reducing the need to feed livestock.

## How soya beans grew into has-beens

By Hugh Clayton

Soya stew, which was once celebrated as one of the greatest grocery innovations of the 1970s, has failed to tempt British families. Two manufacturers who tried to undercut tinned beef stew and mince have withdrawn their products.

Now only curry survives from a range of soya stews that once included goulash and imitation mince. Protein extracted from soya beans was claimed in the mid-1970s to be the answer to rising meat bills in Britain and food shortages in developing countries.

Soya enthusiasts in the grocery industry said that the product had the same texture, appearance and food value as meat at little more than half the price. It would therefore replace meat in the diet and ease international demand for grain by reducing the need to feed livestock.

Cadbury Schweppes considered sponsoring a university chair in soya studies when it launched its meatless steak and mince in 1976. Both products have been withdrawn because they did not sell well enough.

Dalgety Spillers, who abandoned its four tinned soya stews to tinned meat. The company said yesterday that soya products in general acquired a bad reputation because the quality of some was poor.

The lone survivor of the soya stew craze of the 1970s is Danoxa soya curry, supplied by S. Daniels, of London. Its soya range once extended to six products, including soya and kidney for use in pies.

Mr Paul Daniels, managing director, said the curry product survived only because of the excellence of its sauce.

"The market for those products has virtually disappeared," he said.

Soya survives in the mass grocery market as a cheap protein mix to be added in small quantities to real mince, as in imitation bacon garnish, and as an ingredient for instant meal served in plastic pots.

## Director of 'Romans' play bailed

Mr Michael Bogdanov, director of the National Theatre play

*The Romans in Britain*, was remanded on unconditional bail until February 6 at Horseferry Road Magistrates Court, London, yesterday on a charge of alleged indecency in the play.

Mr Bogdanov, aged 42, of Erlanger Road, New Cross, London, is being privately prosecuted under the Sexual Offences Act, 1956, by Mrs Mary Whitehouse, secretary of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association.

He is alleged to have procured the commission of an act of gross indecency between Peter Sproule and Greg Hills, both actors, at the Olivier Theatre on December 19. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

Mrs Whitehouse, aged 70, of Ardleigh, Colchester, Essex, was represented by Mr Graham Ross-Cornes, her solicitor. The examining magistrate was Mr Edmund MacDermott.

The summons concerned a scene depicting an attempted homosexual rape.

## 'Panorama' was censored, BBC journalists say

By a Staff Reporter

Journalists at BBC Television were angry last night over what they considered to be censorship by Sir Ian Trethowan, director-general of the BBC, of a Panorama programme about Britain's security services.

Although the BBC vehemently denied the charge, saying that Sir Ian had sent back certain parts of the programme for further work to be done on them, the journalists, represented by a committee meeting at Lime Grove, decided to call a special meeting for next Wednesday when they will be asked to seek a meeting with the director-general.

The BBC also denied yesterday that the Prime Minister had expressed disquiet about certain parts of the programme. The programme would be shown as soon as it was ready, the corporation said.

Mr David Wainwright, Labour MP for Wallasey, North, said yesterday that he intended to raise the matter in the Commons.

Sir Ian last summer accepted the idea for such a programme, later given the title "M15/M16—The Need to Know". As a Panorama special it was scheduled to last 100 minutes, but no transmission date was fixed.

"The programme was put together and, as is usual with such programmes, it was referred to the director-general who is also editor-in-chief," the BBC said.

He looked at it and removed some material on the ground that it was not authoritative enough and not strongly enough based."

Sir Ian had made it clear he wanted any allegations in the programme "to be firmly attributed. It is nonsense to say Downing Street was involved in any way," the BBC said.

The programme Sir Ian saw contained references to the Profumo affair, the alleged recruitment of criminals by M16 and alleged plots by the same branch to assassinate Dr. Moussadek, former Prime Minister of Iran, and Colonel Nasser.

## Oxford keeps entrance scholarships

By Diana Geddes

Education Correspondent

Oxford colleges have decided by a large majority to retain entrance scholarships and exhibitions, but to examine further whether their number should be significantly reduced.

An Oxford University working party on admissions recommended last October that colleges should consider abolishing all open entrance awards; closed awards have already been effectively abolished. Under the proposed scheme, colleges would still have been able to make awards after the student had spent one or two years at the university.

Entrance awards are given to 35 per cent of each year's intake of undergraduates. The awards are insignificant in financial terms: £50 for a scholarship and £40 for an exhibition. But they carry with them extraordinary prestige, considering their large number, for the student and his school.

Entrance awards are also of great importance in Oxford because of the crucial role they play in the so-called "trumping system," the means by which the brightest students are spread around different colleges rather than being concentrated in certain academically elite colleges, as tends to happen at Cambridge, where no trumping system exists.

At Oxford, a student has to go to the college that offers him an award, even though he may have preferred to go to another college, which has offered him a place. Thus a college with a weak group of candidates in a particular subject may trump a good candidate from another college with a stronger field of candidates.

In deciding to keep entrance awards, Oxford has decided to keep its trumping system. It is not the first time that there has been an attempt to abolish entrance awards. It was one of the recommendations of the Robbins report in 1962, nor will it be the last.

**Security guard gets 10 years**

Vincent McBean, a security guard, of Wallingford, Surrey, who staged a £400,000 raid on his own cash van, was jailed for 10 years yesterday at Newbury Crown Court for robbery and blackmail.

Raymond Fitzpatrick, of Tottenham, and Anthony Smith, of Haringey, both north London, were each sentenced to seven years for robbery and four years for blackmail.

Peacock, of Tottenham, was jailed for £30,000 for dishonestly obtaining a passport.

**Security guard gets 10 years**

Vincent McBean, a security guard, of Wallingford, Surrey, who staged a £400,000 raid on his own cash van, was jailed for 10 years yesterday at Newbury Crown Court for robbery and blackmail.

Raymond Fitzpatrick, of Tottenham, and Anthony Smith, of Haringey, both north London, were each sentenced to seven years for robbery and four years for blackmail.

Peacock, of Tottenham, was jailed for £30,000 for dishonestly obtaining a passport.

**Security guard gets 10 years**

Vincent McBean, a security guard, of Wallingford, Surrey, who staged a £400,000 raid on his own cash van, was jailed for 10 years yesterday at Newbury Crown Court for robbery and blackmail.

Raymond Fitzpatrick, of Tottenham, and Anthony Smith, of Haringey, both north London, were each sentenced to seven years for robbery and four years for blackmail.

Peacock, of Tottenham, was jailed for £30,000 for dishonestly obtaining a passport.

**Security guard gets 10 years**

Vincent McBean, a security guard, of Wallingford, Surrey, who staged a £400,000 raid on his own cash van, was jailed for 10 years yesterday at Newbury Crown Court for robbery and blackmail.

Raymond Fitzpatrick, of Tottenham, and Anthony Smith, of Haringey, both north London, were each sentenced to seven years for robbery and four years for blackmail.

Peacock, of Tottenham, was jailed for £30,000 for dishonestly obtaining a passport.

**Security guard gets 10 years**

Vincent McBean, a security guard, of Wallingford, Surrey, who staged a £400,000 raid on his own cash van, was jailed for 10 years yesterday at Newbury Crown Court for robbery and blackmail.

Raymond Fitzpatrick, of Tottenham, and Anthony Smith, of Haringey, both north London, were each sentenced to seven years for robbery and four years for blackmail.

Peacock, of Tottenham, was jailed for £30,000 for dishonestly obtaining a passport.

**Security guard gets 10 years**

Vincent McBean, a security guard, of Wallingford, Surrey, who staged a £400,000 raid on his own cash van, was jailed for 10 years yesterday at Newbury Crown Court for robbery and blackmail.

Raymond Fitzpatrick, of Tottenham, and Anthony Smith, of Haringey, both north London, were each sentenced to seven years for robbery and four years for blackmail.

Peacock, of Tottenham, was jailed for £30,000 for dishonestly obtaining a passport.

## In brief

## Bus rescues two from house fire

The driver of a double-deck bus yesterday rescued a mother and child trapped in a bedroom at their home in Robson Road, Norwood, south London, by a fire.

Mr Sydney Evans helped Mrs Joan Parkes and her daughter Jacqueline, aged six, to safety through the emergency window on the top deck.

**Man denies murder**

David Pagett, aged 31, of Rothery, Birmingham, yesterday denied at Birmingham Crown Court murdering Miss Gill Kinchin, aged 17, attempting to murder two policemen and the girl's stepfather, kidnapping Miss Kinchin and her mother and illegally possessing a shotgun. The trial date has been fixed for March 3.

**Murder charge remand**

Gerard Murray, aged 24, of Belfast, was remanded in custody at Belfast Magistrates' court yesterday charged with murdering Corporal Phillip Barker, of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, last Saturday and attempting to murder a woman soldier.

**Fewer detainees**

The number of people detained in 1980 under the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act was 537, the lowest annual figure since its introduction in 1974, and more than 300 fewer than in the previous year.

**Man swallows blade**

Laurence Ferguson, aged 28, was taken to hospital yesterday when he swallowed a broken razor blade after being jailed for five years at Glasgow High Court for ill-treating a boy aged two.

**Sutcliffe remand**

Peter William Sutcliffe, aged 35, was remanded in custody for a further week by Dewsbury Magistrates yesterday accused of the murder of Jacqueline Hill, a Leeds University student, last November.

**15 flee hotel fire**

Two firemen were slightly injured yesterday as 80 fought a blaze at the Queen's Hotel, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland. Fifteen people in the building escaped unhurt.

**Gasmen offered 91%**

Gas workers are likely to reject a 91 per cent offer made yesterday, a General and Municipal Workers' Union official said last night.

## 'Sunday Times' journalists seek monopoly writ

By Our Labour Editor

Journalists at The Sunday Times yesterday decided to institute legal proceedings designed to force Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, to refer the proposed purchase of Times Newspapers Ltd by Mr Rupert Murdoch to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Members of the chapel (office branch) of the National Union of Journalists voted overwhelmingly to take steps to challenge at law the Government's refusal of a reference.

An application for a writ of mandamus will be made to the High Court next week, obliging Mr Biffen to give reasons why he declined to refer the sale of The Sunday Times to the commission. An official of the chapel said: "The official of the newspaper is economic, and therefore it was not in the remit of the minister to refuse such a reference."

A writ of mandamus can be applied for to force a minister or other authority to fulfill a duty laid down by law. It is necessary for the applicant to prove that there was a positive legal duty on the authority to do something which he had not done.

The move comes at a critical stage in the negotiations between executives of News International Ltd, Mr Murdoch's

United Kingdom publishing company, and printing unions, and pending leaders on agreements to publish The Times, its supplements and The Sunday Times after March 14, when the Thomson Organisation will cease to be responsible for the titles.

Mr Owen, general secretary of the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel, said that the company was making unrealistic demands for the production and clerical departments.

The unions would try to reach a deal with the Thomson-imposed deadline of February 12 "if it is humanly possible," but they were not prepared to accept staff cuts of up to 50 per cent that had been demanded by the union said: "The things are going, there is no chance of a deal by that date."

Mr John Collier, general manager of News International, who is conducting the negotiations, said: "I think that that is a very depressing and more importantly, a premature judgment. The position has not been reached where anybody could give a responsible, considered view of the outcome."

The general secretaries of all the newspaper unions are to have talks with News International on Monday

## Labour dissidents told to decide

By Michael Hatfield

Political Reporter

Labour's social democrat dissidents were last night told they should make up their minds whether they wanted to stay inside the party.

The challenge came from Mr Neil Kinnock, opposition spokesman for education and a member of the party's national executive committee.

Mr Kinnock said Council for Social Democracy members were welcome to stay and put their arguments inside the party or outside to go and make their attacks from outside.

But he said: "They cannot

## Parents died in fire started by their sons

From Our Correspondent

Whitehaven

Four young brothers with a fascination for fire started a blaze that destroyed their council house and caused the deaths of five members of their family.

At an inquest at Whitehaven yesterday, Mr Adrian Walker, the West Cumbria coroner, said: "This is a terrible story of a loving family virtually wiped out, leaving four little boys. They lost their parents, their grandmother, and their baby brother and sister."

Nine days before Christmas the boys, all under eight, sneaked downstairs to look at their parents' bedroom. In the living room they started lighting pieces of paper from the embers of a coal fire and dropped burning paper.

The five who died in the house at Crossdale Crescent, Whitehaven, were Robert Benson, aged 29, a bricklayer, his wife, Elizabeth, aged 26, her mother, Mrs. Rose Fawcett, aged 63, Carl Benson, aged one year, and Lisa Benson, aged four months.

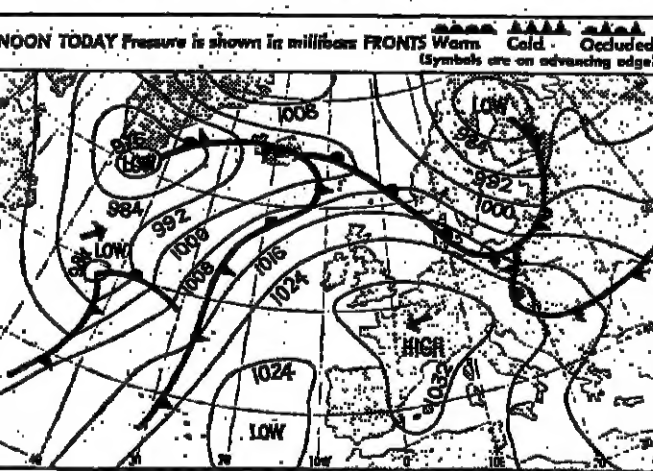
A verdict of accidental death was recorded.

## Trial for former BBC employee

Peter Shepherd, aged 55, of Oakwood Court, West Kensington, former head of the BBC costumes department, was committed on unconditional bail by Marylebone Magistrates' Court yesterday for trial at Knightsbridge Crown Court accused of stealing clothing valued at £411 from the corporation last year.

Mr Walker Jeffery, aged 51, of Monkscomb Way, Brighton, who had nine convictions for driving while disqualified, was yesterday banned from driving for life after admitting a similar offence.

## Weather forecast and recordings



Today		Tomorrow	
Sun rises: 7.41 am	Sun sets: 4.48 pm	Sun rises: 7.39 am	Sun sets: 4.50 pm
Moon rises: 3.50 am	Moon sets: 12.48 pm	Moon rises: 4.51 am	Moon sets: 1.30 pm
New moon: February 4		New moon: February 4	
Lighting up: 5.18 pm to 7.09 am		Lighting up: 5.20 pm to 7.8 am	
High water: London Bridge, 9.55 am, 5.5m; 10.24 pm, 5.5m		High water: London Bridge, 10.59 am, 5.7m; 11.25 pm, 5.7m	
Low water: 2.41 am, 3.5m; 3.16 pm, 9.8m		Low water: 2.41 am, 3.5m; 3.16 pm, 9.8m	
Dover, 7.27 am, 5.3m; 8.13 pm, 5.3m		Dover, 7.27 am, 5.3m; 8.13 pm, 5.3m	
5.3m, 5.3m, Liverpool, 7.36 am, 2.3m; 8.07 pm, 7.3m		5.3m, 5.3m, Liverpool, 7.36 am, 2.3m; 8.07 pm, 7.3m	

Pressure will remain high over the British Isles.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight: London, SE and central S England: Freezing fog, slowly clearing on most parts with heavy sun; fog patches reforming early evening; wind light and variable; max temp 6°C (43°F).

East Angles, Midlands, E. NW and central S England: Freezing fog, thinning for a time during day with some heavy sunshine; wind SW, light; max temp 3°C to 5°C (37° to 41°F).

Channel Islands, SW England, Wales: Fog patches early and late, sunny periods; wind S, light; max temp 8°C (46°F).

NE and NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Mostly cloudy with occasional rain or drizzle; wind mainly SW, fresh or strong; max temp 9°C (48°F).

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY: MIDDAY: C, Cloud; f, fair; fs, fog; s, sun; th, thunder; sn, snow.

Atmosphere	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	11.5	SE	100	11.5	SE	100	11.5	SE	100
Birmingham	11.5	SE	100	11.5	SE	100	11.5	SE	100
Manchester	11.5	SE	100	11.5	SE	100	11.5	SE	100
Cardiff	11.5	SE	100	11.5	SE	100	11.5	SE	100
Edinburgh	11.5	SE	100	11.5	SE	100	11.5	SE	100
Glasgow	11.5	SE	100	11.5	SE	100	11.5	SE	100







OVERSEAS

# Zimbabwe may reject aid package if British insist on terms

From Stephen Taylor Salisbury, Jan 30

Senator Enos Nkala, the Zimbabwean Minister of Finance, made a scathing attack on Britain's aid policy in the House of Assembly today shortly after announcing a mini-budget introducing tax increases.

Senator Nkala, the most outspoken member of the Cabinet since the dismissal of Mr Edgar Tekere earlier this month, said Zimbabwe was "at war with Britain over aid" and suggested that donor countries should tailor their budgets to meet Zimbabwe's needs.

White Zimbabwean ministers have expressed considerable disappointment recently with the grants made since independence in the light of expectations after the Lancaster House agreement, Senator Nkala's speech marked a new level of frustration.

He said that negotiators for the nationalist side at Lancaster House had felt able to agree to the proposals only on being assured that financial support for the land reform programme would be readily available.

"It was understood by us that this support would be in grant form," he said.

The British offer of £75m over three years, which was to have comprised a grant of £27m and a loan of £48m, has been the subject of recent negotiations and Britain has increased the grant offer to £47m with the remaining £28m to be a loan.

Senator Nkala said: "I reject this as still unacceptable." Later he added: "Either they take all of this money and get out of here or they give us all

The Government had faced enormous problems when it took office and had a right to expect greater generosity from Britain, which could not discharge its responsibilities "with the meagre aid now suggested".

He said: "The aid donors, specifically Britain and America, know that we cannot embark on the huge land programme without greater aid to help us meet the constant obligations regarding compensation."

The minister said donor countries would have "one last opportunity" to show their good faith at the donors' conference here late in March.

Zimbabwe's needs, he said, "have priority over their own national problems and plans". Only by fulfilling those needs would Africa have confidence in the sincerity of the developed world.

The mini-budget announced by Mr Nkala increased the surcharge on income tax by 5 per cent, abolished the 15 per cent investment allowance and increased the tax on alcohol and tobacco.

Whitehall surprise: Mr Nkala's adverse comments on British aid caused surprise in Whitehall last night where it was felt that the British contribution to the new state had been quite handsome (Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes).

In addition to the aid package, Britain is continuing training grants to Zimbabwe students to the tune of £11m and is giving military aid worth £3m. Of the debts of the previous Zimbabwe regime, £33m has been rescheduled and £22m written off.

# Trustees appointed to run Salisbury newspapers

From Our Correspondent Salisbury, Jan 30

The board of trustees who will take over the running of the press in Zimbabwe was named here today and presented to President Banda, who described them as "distinguished Zimbabweans of the highest calibre".

The trustees include a doctor, a businessman, a lawyer, and the wife of a former prime minister of Southern Rhodesia, and appear to fulfil the pledge made by the Government that those appointed to take over the South African-controlled holding in Zimbabwe's five main newspapers would have no political affiliations.

However, the trustees' responsibilities have not been made clear. Dr Davidson Sadza, the chairman of the trust and a Salisbury doctor, said he did not know whether it would be empowered to appoint the new editors of the papers. He saw the trust's duties as mainly financial.

The takeover of the Argus Company's 45 per cent holding in Zimbabwe Newspapers (1980) was announced on January 3 by Dr Nathan Shumba, the Minister of Information, who

claimed that under South African influence the newspapers had been responsible for misrepresentations and distortions. He said that the present editors would be replaced by journalists with experience of African nationalist politics.

The members of the trust include Mrs Grace Todd, the wife of Senator Garfield Todd, a former prime minister who campaigned for black political rights in the 1950s and was detained by the Smith regime, and Professor Walter Kamba, principal-designate of the University of Zimbabwe.

Mr John Ellis, president of the Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries, is to be the vice-chairman.

President Banda said he hoped the trust would "project the utmost impartiality and objectivity". Under the trust, there would be room for press criticism of the Government.

The daily administration of the trust will be handled by Mr Robert Mandabvu, who represented Mr Robert Mugabe's Zanu (PF) party in Swaziland during the bush war, and Mr Alan Wateridge, former editor of the *Zambia Daily Mail*.

# Rethink on British aid policy

By David Spenser Diplomatic Correspondent

An admission that the Government's initial response to the Brandt report "may unintentionally have given a mistaken impression" was made by a Foreign Office minister last night.

The comments are a sign that the Government is now taking a more positive attitude towards aid to the Third World, in the face of widespread criticism of its previous policy.

"I entirely accept that more needs to be done," Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said. "I hope that 1981 will be a year of realistic debate and practical action."

Mr Hurd, who was addressing the Oxford University United Nations Association, said that Britain had felt bound to reduce the official aid programme as a contribution to the Commons Select Committee's inquiry into policy on cutting expenditure.

"This is sad because we believe that our British aid programme gives good value for money," Mr Hurd said. Two thirds of it went to the poorest countries in the world.

Mr Hurd said that the debate on the Brandt report on ways of helping the Third World had got off to "a rather ragged start" and at the outset there was an attempt "to use the report to rebuke the Government" for its cuts in British aid.

For the Government's part, the matter of fact tone of its memorandum to the Commons Select Committee might have given a mistaken impression, Mr Hurd said. He believed now there was wider understanding of Britain's contribution.

# Fire heading for national park

Nairobi, Jan 30.—Fierce fires, fanned by high winds, have destroyed 12,000 acres of moorland at altitudes up to 12,000ft on the Aberdare mountain range north of here.

Local forest and game department staffs, backed by all available workers from other government departments, are trying to head the fire off by establishing fire breaks before it reaches the Aberdare National Park forest area. It may have been started by honey hunters smoking out nests of wild bees.

# Washington delivers harsh sermon on Soviet actions

From David Cross Washington, Jan 30

It has been a bad week for the Soviet Union in Washington. First, Mr Alexander Haig, the new Secretary of State, accused Moscow of aiding and abetting international terrorism. Then President Reagan himself accused the Russians of lying and cheating.

But the final straw was the treatment afforded to Mr Anatoly Dobrynin, the Soviet Ambassador and dean of the diplomatic corps in Washington. When he arrived in his limousine at the State Department for his first audience with Mr Haig late yesterday he discovered that one of his most significant privileges had been withdrawn.

During the past two administrations, Mr Dobrynin, who has been Moscow's representative here for nearly 20 years, has been allowed to enter the State Department through the garage in the basement. This enabled him to avoid both the discomfort of sudden temperature changes and possible harassment by reporters lurking around.

But when his chauffeur tried to drive down the ramp to the basement yesterday he was stopped by an irate guard and forced to back out. "It is normal practice for all ambassadors calling at the State Department to enter the building via the diplomatic entrance," a spokesman for Mr Haig explained.

"We had notified the Soviet Embassy that Ambassador Dobrynin would be met there, so no arrangements were made to allow his car into the basement," he added. Mr Dobrynin, himself, made light of the incident. On his way out of the department when he was asked whether he was impressed with the Administration's new style he responded: "Yes, I'm impressed," adding that there was "no problem".

It was not immediately clear why Mr Dobrynin had called at the State Department but it was thought that he might be carrying a response from Moscow to an American warning that a Russian invasion of Poland would have a long-lasting impact on relations between Washington and the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Ambassador might also have responded to protests from Mr Haig about recent Soviet press statements claiming that Washington was using the end of the hostage crisis as an excuse for invading Iran.

At the regular State Department briefing yesterday, a spokesman for Mr Haig explained that this sort of "propaganda" statement by the Soviet media was one of the points Mr Haig had in mind when he accused Moscow of fostering international terrorism.

At his first press conference since taking office, Mr Haig promised to make the fight against terrorism one of the main priorities of the new Administration's foreign policy.

The spokesman then ticked off a list of five different types of Soviet action which the new Administration considered to be an illustration of Soviet involvement in terrorism.

They were: the provision of Russian financial support, training and arms for groups like the Palestine Liberation Organization; use of surrogates like the Cubans and Libyans to provide similar assistance for terrorist groups; propaganda and material support for so-called "national liberation movements" like the leftist guerrillas in El Salvador; the use of propaganda to foment distrust for the United States, for example, during the long hostage crisis in Iran; and general Soviet advocacy of armed struggle as a solution to regional problems, for example, in Namibia.

The spokesman explained that Soviet actions of this kind would have an important bearing on the Administration's attitude to the future course of Soviet-American relations. "This Administration very clearly is going to take into consideration the entire gamut of Soviet behaviour," the spokesman said. "We are not going to have selective defence."

This clear break with the East-West policy of the Carter Administration was enunciated even more clearly by the President during his first television press conference here yesterday. "I happen to believe that you can't sit down at a table and just negotiate that (a strategic arms limitation agreement with the Soviet Union) unless you take into account all the other things that are going on," he said.

He also made it clear that his



The deaths of 1,181 elephants provided this array of 12 tons of illegal ivory found in Sudan on board a ship at Port Sudan.

# Pravda says Solidarity tries to destroy state

From Michael Binyan Moscow, Jan 30

The Soviet Union today echoes the ominous warning that measures would soon be taken against Solidarity, the independent trade union movement, if the strikes continued.

Tass agency repeated the warning by the Polish party leaders that the crisis in the country was deepening and the situation rapidly degenerating into anarchy.

Giving clear backing to the Polish Government's tough new line against the strikes and its leaders, Tass spoke of a dangerous intensification of actions and trends: the seizing of state institutions, mass absenteeism, strikes and disruption and a campaign against leading officials and the violation of law and order.

"All efforts by the Government to stabilize the situation in the country and lead it out from the crisis are being reduced to nothing. Elements of chaos and anarchy have been introduced into the country's life, endangering the destiny of the state and its citizens. Forces hostile to the socialist state are becoming ever more active," Tass reported.

The Tass news agency said the Polish constitution gave the Government power to take action to preserve order and discipline and ensure proper conditions for normal life. The Government would take whatever measures were necessary to ensure that enterprises functioned normally in keeping with the public interest.

Today, Pravda carried a long report by a Tass correspondent in Warsaw which "virtually accused Solidarity and its leaders of having been behind the destruction of the Polish state and the overthrow of communism. It is the first time that the Russians have levelled specific accusations against Mr Lech Walesa and his fellow Solidarity leaders and reflects

the growing Soviet alarm and exasperation at the intensifying social and political crisis in Poland.

Pravda spoke about blackmail, threats, provocations and physical force, as well as anarchy being used by the leaders of Solidarity.

The union was making ever greater political demands and transforming itself into political opposition to the party and Government, it alleged. The demands over Saturday working were only a tactic being used by Solidarity's leaders and anti-socialist forces behind them.

The newspaper said the economic crisis and the sharp questions now facing the Polish people could not be solved by political adventurism and anarchy.

It linked specifically Solidarity with KOR, the dissident "Self-Defence Committee", which the Russians have frequently attacked as an anti-communist organization, and the report said it was helping those in the West who were hostile to people's Poland.

The plans of the counter-revolutionaries were clear: They aimed to bring down the government through the use of strikes and to install the political opposition in its place.

"Things have reached an alarming state in the country nowadays," Pravda said, amplifying the Tass report.

Cheap barley: "All-bids" ever measures were necessary to ensure that enterprises functioned normally in keeping with the public interest.

Today, Pravda carried a long report by a Tass correspondent in Warsaw which "virtually accused Solidarity and its leaders of having been behind the destruction of the Polish state and the overthrow of communism. It is the first time that the Russians have levelled specific accusations against Mr Lech Walesa and his fellow Solidarity leaders and reflects

# Winter fails to take fight out of Afghans

From Our Own Correspondent Delhi, Jan 30

In spite of the winter weather the insurgents in Afghanistan are unfurling in their heavy troops, according to diplomatic sources here.

There has been guerrilla activity during the past few days in all over Afghanistan: in the south-eastern province of Helmand province, in the south, Farah province in the south-west, in the central provinces of Parwan and Bamian, and the Samangan region in the north.

During the past week, in actions now typical of the warfare in Afghanistan, there was fighting between mujahideen and Afghan and Soviet forces in several villages between Charikar and Jalsorai, about 50 miles north of Kabul.

Many houses, were reported to have been levelled by bombardment and parts of the Charikar and to Kabul whose population has already swelled considerably since the Russian occupation started.

Afghan newspapers and radio broadcasts carry regular reports of the "defeat" of insurgent groups in various parts of the country, an indication that the mujahideen are carrying on their struggle relentlessly and that few parts of the countryside from the Russian point of view, can be considered to be truly under control.

Today's reports carried nothing that would substantiate the speculative and dubious reports of a few days ago that some mujahideen groups might be armed with rockets and that the damage allegedly done by rockets may be part of the routine exaggeration, wishful thinking and unverifiable rumours that are an inevitable part of a confused and low level war and part of the understandable desire among Afghans and others to ensure that Afghanistan and the Russian action do not slip from public view.

According to diplomatic sources here, the city of Kandahar is under a state of lawlessness. Shooting is heard on most evenings and there have been attacks on government buildings and schools.

Meanwhile, the mujahideen continue to ambush government convoys.

# Ottawa warned on constitution

By George Clark Political Correspondent

Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, and the Federal Government were warned by a House of Commons Select Committee yesterday that if they expect Westminster to endorse the revised Canadian constitution now being debated in Ottawa they should seek agreement from the provincial governments.

The committee notes that the legality of the Federal Government's proposals is being challenged by six of the 10 provincial governments.

Sir Anthony Kershaw, Conservative MP for Sarnia and chairman of the committee, emphasized that British MPs did not want to be drawn into Canadian internal political disputes.

"Some people may not realize that it is the duty of the British House of Commons, imposed upon it in 1931, that we should in fact be the guardians of certain aspects of the Canadian constitution until policy on cutting expenditure."

"This is sad because we believe that our British aid programme gives good value for money," Mr Hurd said. Two thirds of it went to the poorest countries in the world.

Mr Hurd said that the debate on the Brandt report on ways of helping the Third World had got off to "a rather ragged start" and at the outset there was an attempt "to use the report to rebuke the Government" for its cuts in British aid.

For the Government's part, the matter of fact tone of its memorandum to the Commons Select Committee might have given a mistaken impression, Mr Hurd said. He believed now there was wider understanding of Britain's contribution.

# Israel forces in artillery fire exchange

From Our Correspondent Tel Aviv, Jan 30

United Nations observers in southern Lebanon reported that Israeli forces and Palestinian guerrillas continued exchanging artillery fire today.

Scattered incidents were reported on the eastern flank where shelling started late on Wednesday night as well as on the Mediterranean coastal flank.

Israelis said the Palestinians started the fighting with unprovoked Katyusha rocket barrages at the towns of Kiryat Shmona and Metuliah in Galilee.

Military analysts said the shelling appeared to be an extension of artillery exchanges between the Palestinians and Israel's Lebanese Christian allies under Major Saad Haddad. The Palestine Liberation Organization has claimed Israeli artillery supported the Lebanese forces.

United Nations observers said rockets that hit Kiryat Shmona early today came from Palestinian positions near the twelfth century crusader castle at Beaufort.

No one knows how many artillery pieces there are in Israel, although it was estimated at a recent astrology conference in Delhi that there are 300,000. The president of the conference, who is a Cabinet member called for the establishment of a university chair of astrology and an astrologer's seat in the Indian Upper House.

Dr Lokesh Chandra, director of the Indian Institute of Culture, said that astrology is one of numerous influences in their lives: "It is something to be taken into account. It does not play a decisive role with most people, but an astrologer's advice is certainly considered when decisions are being arrived at."

In October, when *The Times* was on sale, an Indian seer wrote a letter assuring me of the newspaper's survival. There were, however, conditions: The paper's title should be changed, he said, to "The London Times", and this should be done at the time of the full moon.

# Diplomat defects to West

From Our Correspondent Vienna, Jan 30

A Romanian diplomat and cipher expert in Vienna has defected to the West, it has been announced. He took with him more than 100lb of classified documents.

Mr Florian Rotaru, who is 28, had been in Vienna since 1979 but had planned his defection for five years. It was then that he began to collect copies of the classified information he coded and decoded in Bucharest.

On the day of his defection—November 23 last year—he was the only diplomat in the centre embassy building in the centre of Vienna.

He broke into cupboards, filled cabinets and desks to fill the post sack with files and dossiers.

After smashing a window at the back of the embassy he walked across a car park to freedom.

His defection has been kept secret until now because the Western intelligence services were suspicious of the sheer quantity of material he had brought with him.

When they were convinced that his information was genuine, the Western intelligence services could identify many of the East European agents at work in the West from the dossiers.

# Marcos election idea rejected

Manila, Jan 30.—Philippine opposition leaders today rejected President Marcos's call for a presidential election this May, saying they did not believe free elections could take place as long as the "apparatus of dictatorship" still exists.

The opposition reiterated its call for a transitional government to clear the air before holding nationwide elections.

—Agence France-Press.

# Peru opposes OAS role in conflict with Ecuador

Lima, Jan 30.—Peru would reject any intervention by the Organization of American States in its border dispute with Ecuador, Señor Javier Arias Stella, the Foreign Minister, said here last night.

Peru abstained during a vote by the organization's executive council in Washington. The council approved by 20 votes (with three abstentions) an Ecuadorian request for a Foreign Ministers' meeting to discuss the Peru-Ecuador border incidents, which broke out over the upper Amazon's rich oil deposits.

The meeting will take place in Washington on Monday.

In Quito, Ecuador, a military commander described the border situation as "stationary" after Ecuadorian forces had fought off an attack on the Paquisilla military garrison.

Ecuador has called for negotiations to settle the dispute, which it said was caused by the "military occupation of Ecuadorian territory by Peruvian troops since 1941".

Peru, whose main oilfields are between the Tigris and Corrientes rivers in the north, in territory acquired by its 1941 war with Ecuador, is exploring for oil throughout the frontier region whose boundaries Ecuador challenges.

Ecuador, a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, produces approximately 11 million tons of oil annually, and has reserves of about 175 million tons.

Peru produces about 10 million tons a year, with reserves of 98 million tons.

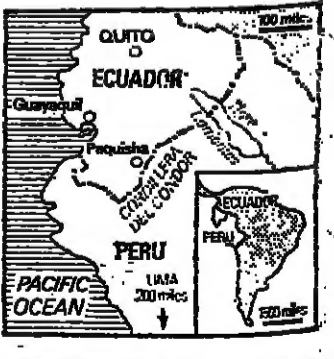
In July, 1941, the two countries were involved in a brief bloody war that was once looked in the future as a catalyst of the Second World War.

In January, 1942, under pressure from the United States, the neighbours signed the treaty of Rio de Janeiro, and Ecuador ceded more than half its Amazon territories to Peru. In 1955, Ecuador denounced the treaty and has repeatedly expressed its claims to the Amazon lands.

Ecuador, a small agricultural country, has a population of about 7,300,000. It is one of the continent's poorest nations.

Peru, about four times the size of Ecuador and with a population almost double, has one of the best-equipped armies in Latin America. Its aircraft and tanks are French and Soviet made, and its warships come from France, Italy and West Germany.

Despite its mineral wealth, Peru, too, is one of the continent's poorest nations. —Agence France-Press.



# Stars and pavement seers influence India's way of life

From Trevor Fishlock Delhi, Jan 30

It is not unusual these days for bank managers to bring their local banking customers to Mr Sarathy's consulting room in Delhi. Mr Sarathy is a successful astrologer and palmist and numerous bank managers believe it makes good sense to have him check the stars and palms of hopeful borrowers.

"I recall one case in which I noted that a man brought along by his bank manager had not long to live and would not, therefore, be able to repay a loan. So he did not get one. A few months later, I am sorry to say, I learnt that the man had committed suicide," Mr Sarathy said.

Astrologers, palmists, physiognomists and assorted seers make a singular contribution to life in India. When approaching the important events of life, such as the birth of children, marriage and business deals, most Hindu Indians prefer to take no chances. They call on the services of their local astrologer. Millions of Hindu children

have their horoscopes cast at birth and when parents arrange their children's marriage they usually insist that horoscopes of bride and groom are cast and compared.

Many businessmen go to practitioners to seek advice before starting a new venture or taking a long business trip. Men thinking of going into business partnership often go to Mr Sarathy's consulting room with the prospective partner's photograph and birth date.

"European firms, as well as Indian ones, send me pictures of men who are being considered for jobs," he said.

Builders and civil engineers will wait for an auspicious day, determined by astrologers, before beginning new projects. In the country people will often wait until the moon and planets are favourable before sinking a new well or starting to sow or plough.

Few people would marry or embark on a new project on the eighth day after a new moon, an unlucky day. The time of an

eclipse is considered especially unfavourable and many people prefer to stay indoors during such an event and insist that all their crockery and cutlery is washed.

But during the days ordained by the seers as auspicious for marriages, the hotels and outside caterers of India are at full stretch, and musicians lump with exhaustion as they move from one wedding feast to the next.

People contemplating litigation often consult an astrologer first. "Obviously, they want to know if they are going to win," Mr Sarathy said.

Many Indian politicians believe firmly in astrology and consult their prophets before making decisions. Southsiders prescribe the wearing of a pearl considered to be connected with political advancement and fortune—many politicians heed the advice.

The last time for India's independence in 1947 caused much distress among astrologers. August 15 was originally

كذبا من الأصل



# Saturday Review



## The city of beautiful nonsense

The ritzy, rich and swanky have always left

Vogue on display in their drawing

rooms. It has kept them in touch with the

very latest, tip-top high fashion

and, through some classy travel writing,

told them where they might

while away their time. Here, from Vogue

of the Twenties, is Noel Coward

on the Venice Lido and, from the Fifties,

Henry Green on the city.

For a few months in every year, a fierce and relentless sun blazes down upon Venice—wisely, if a trifle superficially, described as "The City of Beautiful Nonsense". Enthusiastic steam launches forge raucously up and down the Grand Canal, causing perspiring tourists to clutch the carved wooden seats of their gondolas as they bounce up and down in the wash and swirl away from slippery green steps at the precise moment that somebody is attempting to get into them. Hordes of earnest women, with pince-nez and Baedekers, rush spiritedly through austere buildings to converge ultimately, wearing expressions of weary triumph, upon the Piazza San Marco, where, for a few brief moments, they relax and consume ices and cakes preparatory to gathering themselves together for renewed onslaughts upon the wistful remnants of further beautiful nonsense. Flocks of unembarrassed

pigeons are photographed incessantly with a charming disregard of social distinctions, perching upon the more vulnerable anatomical points of minor European royalties and self-conscious American matrons, and, all through the long, scorching days, clouds of effusive superlatives are wafted up and over the shrieking domes and spires of the shrill was once the most graceful and dignified city of the world. It is not altogether surprising, therefore, that the wealthy exclusive nucleus of cosmopolitan, self-designated as the "sheik set", migrates with a slightly uncalled-for air of superiority to the Excelsior Hotel on the Lido. Here, for hours on end, the placid shallows of the long-suffering Adriatic are peppered with hobbling and gesticulating figures. There can be but small consolation for it in the knowledge that it is being ravished by the best people—salt water is a notorious leveller of class differences. Every square inch

of fine, powdered sand is churned up by the passing of innumerable toes and dented and depressed by recumbent sun-blistered bodies of various nationalities.

Perhaps the most astonishing deduction to be drawn from the Lido Beach as a pleasure resort is the tragically demoralizing effect that it has upon character. Pensively innocuous people who, during the larger portion of the year, lead use-less but well-meaning lives, arrive at the Excelsior with so much as a harsh thought even for their best friends—suffering a little from inevitable traveller's fatigue, following a hot and dusty train journey—and desiring, only peace and hours of languorous tranquility.

Usually, a day or two passes before the first signs of moral degeneration begin to appear in varying forms of irresponsibility—sudden, violent quarrels at bridge or an unreasoning desire to frustrate the most harmless plans suggested by casual acquaintances in the worthy cause of general enjoyment. In the case of more dominant personalities, a few hours are necessary in order to bring forth those treacherous impulses and revoltingly primitive desires, which, if we are to believe Monsieur Gustave Flaubert, are firmly embodied in the most charming nature.

For the benefit of the mercifully uninitiated, it would, perhaps, be well to describe this Gomorrah of frowzy splendour. An unbecomingly and incomplete wooden pier wanders listlessly for a few yards into the sea and stops abruptly, as though discouraged by its own unattractiveness. An amazingly hot strip of sand is semi-circled by two rows of cabanas, or bathing huts, intersected by narrow plank paths that scorch the soles of the feet unless some person has flung down a wet bathing-dress and left a damp patch of grateful coolth.

A wider board walk leads from the centre of the beach to a majestic flight of steps culminating in the terrace of the Excelsior Hotel. It is not considered etiquette to penetrate as far as this unless comparatively clothed. Within the lounge an air of well-ordered civilization soothes the senses—one or two of the bridge players actually seem to be enjoying themselves, unlike their scowling friends on the beach, who spend hours squabbling viciously and brushing flakes of their own sun-scorched flesh from the table.

The visitors who live in Venice and come out to the Lido only for the day have more chance of ultimate salvation. By the time they have reached their hotels in the evening and dressed and dined, the sour lines have been eradicated from their faces and their sanity of outlook restored. They begin to chatter and laugh again, sublimely unconscious of the pit from which they have escaped. They glide about peacefully in gondolas and watch marionette-like figures jiggling about on lantern-hung Serenades. The lights on the Piazza are lazily extinguished. Dim couples wander through the shadows, occasionally speaking Italian—until, at last, for a few hours, the crowd-racked city succumbs to the weary sleep of gently decaying beauty.

Venice, where no ice is, and green has never been, at dawn the fishless stinking sea milk white, a pink palace domed into a sky of milk and towards which one black gondola is being poled. Venice where the only horses must be statues and they have yet to put up motor cars in stone, oh Venice with no bicycle bells but with a Bridge of Sighs and Casanova always on a roof—the sun is rising must bring assure to your roads of sea-sideless with a steadily rising stretch. Venice where Proust thought to travel and never did, Venice they somehow misused when bombing, Venice which is still here but for how long, and will it be too late soon, the pigeons, St Mark's, a populace standing under colonnades angrily arguing prices, the sun at noon too sharp striking light off marble, the brazen hots hot and dry to touch—up in that dormer window on the lead roof a maid stretched in black, snoring on the bed with skirts up about her mouth, the natives poling spaghetti down, Venice which is too hot because she never freezes—where do they get their drinking water or do they strike this like oil, are there derricks to gush it from the ocean into those old palaces past which the motor boats must not speed in case they bring the places down.

Venice, for the honeymoon, cushions at the rear in a little moving room, the gondolier who does not look back, but no he would be pushing from the stern—he would be stretched out before him—so what do they have shades on that little backward looking window through which his enamoured eyes at the corners of which two bluebottles sip brighter than jewels, the gondolier appraising our love-making, can you then draw a blind to exclude him or can he go to the bows to pole and not look over a shoulder, to stare into sun with his wounds of eyes while I wound you, my love, or cushions white like rice to the lap lap of water...

Venice, the lions of St Mark's in stone—did one such lion on a great afternoon swim in from blinding yellow sands every yard from the south, its home—an orange head athwart the sure sea, with salt-white fish impaled on the claws of one forepaw all the sad way from Africa towards which Venice ever leans—did they then who live there catch its sobbing breath, the dark despair of effort a sounding band about the heart, oh Venice of marble, my love unvisited, my honeymoon unspent...

Or is it at dusk when each emerald within the sea will rise to take the surface air, when light winds from the Bosphorus, the Golden Gates, waft from the East to cool the palace windows even now lighting against dusk and the sky is gold, when pigeons clap their wings to take evening flight in air that now is eyelid pink and the stretch—subsides, when those blue-stoned walls can breathe and saints in stone do stretch to sigh for another day that is done in five, six hundred years, then, is it then, Venice, time for lovers in that darker dusk within the little room that glides while the gondolier hums...

Hanging to his bars the prisoner at his cell will see this evening dove flight, the maid in black and on her bed will yawn at them then draw her skirts down along far legs, the lovestick girl will droop on doves as they find their way, as the sea must fade, the sunset before they roost on an old statue's taut right arm, the marble shoulder, or on bronze imperishable ever folded wings of angels standing on a corner to await the daily death of Venice...

And the rising moon. Above a sea turned dark as night on which Venice ever leans her tresses the disc emerges apricot gold and every small wave set with diamonds, fanned by her desert breath, takes on an Africa sunshine only cold as death as dolphins come in out of the wide sea to Venice. For she is wedded to the sea. Her rulers the Doges, when each in his turn came to office, had this custom by which he was rowed out on to the main where he let drop a golden ring to away criss-crossed down into the ocean, to gleam, for Venice is wed to the sea called Mediterranean sea.

And the dolphins at night drive in from the sea. With their brief sigh as they come up to breathe, they are quicksilver in moonlight over Venice and in their play they do sigh for lovers adrift in the moonlight lane from Venice...

And these lovers, as they are urged by no action of their own into this old enchantment, leave behind as they must in their care for one another, marble blood in its veins under midday heat, now classically turned blue blooded in the moon, blanched, carved into a living identity with its statues that live for ever on the buildings of Venice which does not sleep at night.

Here, too, the pondy blaze which stunned Venice, which drew her stretch up to freight the air with living, has cooled, has turned as cold as silhouettes where the gondola cuts its own outline where in other vessel is and where, in one another's arms, cut off in our shade from the gondolier, we voyage more than ever by ourselves away from the cold marble forehead of Venice in which doves now swoon on statues and the night holds still and we, bereft in one another's warmth by the sheer moonlight, in one another's unyielded skin, each gently haloed in the other's breath, and silenced she and I, are silenced as we draw out from Venice...

For silence is best where we, while idly talking, might disagree, under the clear stars, alone the gondolier forgotten. Nor is it safe for lovers to more than murmur in Venice, even out at sea. For behind them they have the storied pavements, great lives in mosaic, and above those fabled women swathed in marble idleness over great niches set in silken covered walls, there are ceilings dimmed now by night, unreflected by moonlight through the wide windows, there are heroes drawn over stretched motionless ceilings to vast designs which were painted to show each in his greatest moment and, thus painted, become the thieves of time; these are for us, in the city we have left behind, which our gondola has sunk beneath the skyline, these are the epit-

ome of all love stories, in mosaic, in statues and in great painting to bring us mortals down to little more than ghosts, but warm, off Venice...

So it is perhaps we should be chary of a honeymoon in or off the seaborne city. It may be too much has gone on or is pictured there. There could be frailty in our lives not to be endured under that magnificence. We might be found wanting. How then can the inhabitants live through such a challenge? The answer must be they are so used to riches that they no longer feel, or else they live in cross-eyed blindness...

Can one then have the heart, the impudence to visit Venice? Is that the reason Proust would never go? For against this, if it might be too hot by day or the stretch then too great, by contrast it would seem only too easy to set out by moonlight so that no couple, if given the miraculous chance, could fail, intent on their two selves, to sink Venice, as can be done tomorrow by the gondola covering of a moonlit lane of sea. Yet to leave her thus is but to come back to bed in Venice.

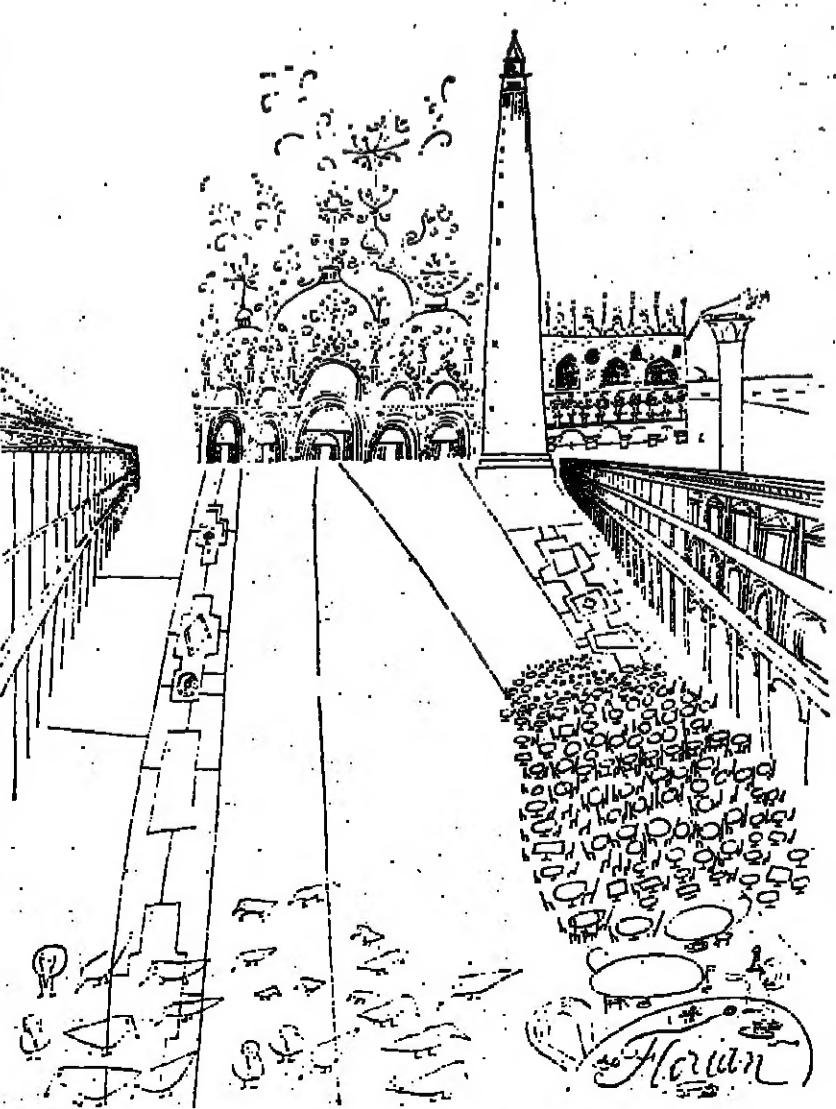
The dawn is always chill, better met between sheets. The sun, in first rising, is not warmer than the loved one's arms. So, in returning over the sea, in seeing that fabled city rise out of the ocean under moonlight, first one dome then another, and the gold crosses piled to white, next the roads of water between black shadows—oh here then must be who knows what of the great myths of the world that

each one carries within him. Venice by moonlight, all the whole literature of the world that every human being, the hair as we all are to each beautiful line created, is born to and holds in a molten casket in his heart for Venice...

For Venice is everlasting, lives by a life that cannot die except by bombs. It may be she is too strong for mortals, that we could feel too human to submit our will to hers. But sure as day follows night the morrow's sun will rise on Venice, the stretch, if you will, return. But the doves must come down from up the palaces, dawn will find her great statutory eyes wide opened. Prisons, palaces and churches will smile again as they have through centuries, and the people of Venice will go on unregarding. And while she is here still, through her and under her will continue to drift brave pilgrims from the West.

Then, as day closes yet once more, Venice will clothe herself for the moon. And, when that reflection rises from Africa in the moon's triumph over men, that is the time for all the world's lovers, living their lives over again (their lives perhaps to be) in the photographs and pictures of Venice: a city for ever wedded to the sea that there is no one does not carry by him and which each one of us lives by, despite himself, his inward eye fixed, perhaps it would best be not in, but rather trained upon Venice...

These extracts are taken from *Travel in Vogue*, to be published by MacDonald Futura on March 19, at £10.95.





## French revelations and reactions

Some of the private archival material "never before broadcast" which featured Britain's Fascist Leader, Count Cross's assessment of Sir Oswald Mosley might have been heard on unbroadcast still, so harsh and distorted was the sound, but perhaps it did a little to sustain the impression which in Hugh Purcell's production samples of crowd oratory he already given of the passionate feeling the man was capable of arousing. To some extent, as heard, this was a calculated little more than the familiar public speaker's trick of "em" what your going to do, then say it, then tell 'em you've said." On top of this there was the orchestration again, to some extent worked out. And then there was the other element, something controlled at all: naked, aggressive emotion of the same quality as Hixler could deliver conveying the same situation of speaker and crowd helpless, egging one another on. Listening, one could only be thankful that the greater, of which Mosley's passion fell far short, and less, receptive that he had thought.

In fact, as Mr Cross's programme suggested, Moslems seem seriously to have misjudged the receptiveness of this country as a whole, not to have realized how ill-prepared it was to adopt his vision if that meant tolerating the strong-arm methods of his followers. The same disorder of the judgement can be discerned in the abrupt departure from the Labour Party and independence from Parliamentary politics after his first reverse in 1939, as well as in the harebrained scheme he later propounded for the exploitation of Africa by united Europe. Lord Shindwin was heard to ascribe Moslem

Ironically, Mosley was late to arouse the passionate interest of some of the very people who was thought to have deserted those who in the East End

London became his ardent supporters. On the strength of the programme, however, it seemed that extreme gestures were the nature of the man: he emerged as a romantic with some of the characteristics that often go to make up an impermanent romantic hero. But the reach of an argument, the need to be sustained by a high level of emotion, the two combining to create a certain ruthlessness in any case. Perhaps such people do not easily endure reverses and saturate down to get their way along the slow road of political possibility. The voice of Mosley recorded just before his death was a voice that suggested a man who had once thriven on attention, excitement and large emotion but whose drugs had long since been withdrawn.

Excerpts from London Broadcasting's competition for school leavers were broadcast last Monday night as part of the records awards ceremony so ably presided over that morning by Sir Harold Wilson. In this second year of the scheme, the task was to turn in a dramatised documentary, a reconstruction of another style of programme recorded at the House of Commons. Of the three winners, the *Reverend Junior School, Chichester*—

[illegible]

local priest, obedient to the vindictive instructions of his spinster daughter, Alice, who has kept house for him. Alice's daughter, Amy, is betrothed from New England to the son of the end and share in the anticipated spoils while his sister, Agnes also milks about. Alice has the odd surprise in store for her when her lover and no sooner has the old man gone than she is off with £1,000 in her bag and not planning to return. She doesn't know what she wants but she does know what she doesn't want and she gets it as before. All understandable enough, except that in the character as written there was little to suggest even a "negative" motive of any sufficient strength. Her energies, it seemed, ran only in satisfying the wishes of the dying. I could not believe in them as sustaining a precipitate departure from the living too.











## EDUCATIONAL



Applications are invited for entry in September 1981 for a full-time one-year course for the training of orchestral players. Applicants should be instrumentalists who have reached at least the level represented by a performer's diploma and who wish to pursue a career in the music profession. Auditions and interviews will be held in April 1981.

The NCOS is supported financially by the BBC, Independent Television Companies Association, Musicians' Union, Arts Council, several trusts and companies and has the full support of the Association of British Orchestras.

The tutorial staff will consist of distinguished instrumentalists and conductors from Britain and abroad. The course will provide a unique opportunity for students to study both classical and contemporary music with leading members of the profession. Students who complete the course successfully will have reached the high standard now necessary to compete for entrance to the profession and will receive the Goldsmiths' Diploma in Orchestral Studies.

Goldsmiths' College is fifteen minutes by train from Charing Cross and the South Bank. Students will not only be in easy reach of the musical and cultural life of London but will also have the opportunity to participate in the rich intellectual and artistic life of a large and academically diverse college.

Further details and application forms may be obtained from The Secretary, National Centre for Orchestral Studies, 21 St. James, New Cross, London SE14 6AD.

## ST. HUGH'S COLLEGE, OXFORD

## MOBERLY

## SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP 1981-82

The College proposes to elect to a Moberly Senior Scholarship of £200 tenable from Michaelmas Term 1981. The Scholarship is open to women graduates to read for a higher degree.

Further particulars from The Principal, St. Hugh's College, Oxford, to whom applications should be sent by 1st April 1981.

## ST. HUGH'S COLLEGE, OXFORD

## MARTINENGO CESARESCO TRAVEL GRANT FOR ITALIAN STUDIES 1981-82

The Governing Body of St. Hugh's College invites applications from graduates of the College for a Travel Grant, to the value of not less than £500, for the period 1st October 1981—1st October 1982, to further the study of Italian language, literature or history.

Further particulars from The Principal, St. Hugh's College, Oxford, to whom applications should be sent by 30th May 1981.

## ST. HUGH'S COLLEGE OXFORD

Application is invited for the following post-graduate award.

## ELIZABETH WORDSWORTH JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

St. Hugh's College proposes to elect to an Elizabeth Wordsworth Junior Research Fellowship tenable for 3 years from Michaelmas term 1981.

Further particulars (including details of stipend) from The Principal, St. Hugh's College, Oxford, to whom applications should be sent by Monday, 23rd February, 1981.

## ST. HUGH'S COLLEGE, OXFORD

## SCHOOLTEACHER STUDENTSHIP

The College invites applications for a Schoolteacher Studentship for Hilary or preferably Trinity Term 1982.

Particulars may be obtained from the College Secretary. Closing date for applications: Wednesday, 1st April, 1981.

## CINEMAS

**LEICESTER SQUARE THEATRE**  
13.00, 15.00, 17.00, 19.00, 21.00, 23.00, 25.00, 27.00, 29.00, 31.00, 33.00, 35.00, 37.00, 39.00, 41.00, 43.00, 45.00, 47.00, 49.00, 51.00, 53.00, 55.00, 57.00, 59.00, 61.00, 63.00, 65.00, 67.00, 69.00, 71.00, 73.00, 75.00, 77.00, 79.00, 81.00, 83.00, 85.00, 87.00, 89.00, 91.00, 93.00, 95.00, 97.00, 99.00, 101.00, 103.00, 105.00, 107.00, 109.00, 111.00, 113.00, 115.00, 117.00, 119.00, 121.00, 123.00, 125.00, 127.00, 129.00, 131.00, 133.00, 135.00, 137.00, 139.00, 141.00, 143.00, 145.00, 147.00, 149.00, 151.00, 153.00, 155.00, 157.00, 159.00, 161.00, 163.00, 165.00, 167.00, 169.00, 171.00, 173.00, 175.00, 177.00, 179.00, 181.00, 183.00, 185.00, 187.00, 189.00, 191.00, 193.00, 195.00, 197.00, 199.00, 201.00, 203.00, 205.00, 207.00, 209.00, 211.00, 213.00, 215.00, 217.00, 219.00, 221.00, 223.00, 225.00, 227.00, 229.00, 231.00, 233.00, 235.00, 237.00, 239.00, 241.00, 243.00, 245.00, 247.00, 249.00, 251.00, 253.00, 255.00, 257.00, 259.00, 261.00, 263.00, 265.00, 267.00, 269.00, 271.00, 273.00, 275.00, 277.00, 279.00, 281.00, 283.00, 285.00, 287.00, 289.00, 291.00, 293.00, 295.00, 297.00, 299.00, 301.00, 303.00, 305.00, 307.00, 309.00, 311.00, 313.00, 315.00, 317.00, 319.00, 321.00, 323.00, 325.00, 327.00, 329.00, 331.00, 333.00, 335.00, 337.00, 339.00, 341.00, 343.00, 345.00, 347.00, 349.00, 351.00, 353.00, 355.00, 357.00, 359.00, 361.00, 363.00, 365.00, 367.00, 369.00, 371.00, 373.00, 375.00, 377.00, 379.00, 381.00, 383.00, 385.00, 387.00, 389.00, 391.00, 393.00, 395.00, 397.00, 399.00, 401.00, 403.00, 405.00, 407.00, 409.00, 411.00, 413.00, 415.00, 417.00, 419.00, 421.00, 423.00, 425.00, 427.00, 429.00, 431.00, 433.00, 435.00, 437.00, 439.00, 441.00, 443.00, 445.00, 447.00, 449.00, 451.00, 453.00, 455.00, 457.00, 459.00, 461.00, 463.00, 465.00, 467.00, 469.00, 471.00, 473.00, 475.00, 477.00, 479.00, 481.00, 483.00, 485.00, 487.00, 489.00, 491.00, 493.00, 495.00, 497.00, 499.00, 501.00, 503.00, 505.00, 507.00, 509.00, 511.00, 513.00, 515.00, 517.00, 519.00, 521.00, 523.00, 525.00, 527.00, 529.00, 531.00, 533.00, 535.00, 537.00, 539.00, 541.00, 543.00, 545.00, 547.00, 549.00, 551.00, 553.00, 555.00, 557.00, 559.00, 561.00, 563.00, 565.00, 567.00, 569.00, 571.00, 573.00, 575.00, 577.00, 579.00, 581.00, 583.00, 585.00, 587.00, 589.00, 591.00, 593.00, 595.00, 597.00, 599.00, 601.00, 603.00, 605.00, 607.00, 609.00, 611.00, 613.00, 615.00, 617.00, 619.00, 621.00, 623.00, 625.00, 627.00, 629.00, 631.00, 633.00, 635.00, 637.00, 639.00, 641.00, 643.00, 645.00, 647.00, 649.00, 651.00, 653.00, 655.00, 657.00, 659.00, 661.00, 663.00, 665.00, 667.00, 669.00, 671.00, 673.00, 675.00, 677.00, 679.00, 681.00, 683.00, 685.00, 687.00, 689.00, 691.00, 693.00, 695.00, 697.00, 699.00, 701.00, 703.00, 705.00, 707.00, 709.00, 711.00, 713.00, 715.00, 717.00, 719.00, 721.00, 723.00, 725.00, 727.00, 729.00, 731.00, 733.00, 735.00, 737.00, 739.00, 741.00, 743.00, 745.00, 747.00, 749.00, 751.00, 753.00, 755.00, 757.00, 759.00, 761.00, 763.00, 765.00, 767.00, 769.00, 771.00, 773.00, 775.00, 777.00, 779.00, 781.00, 783.00, 785.00, 787.00, 789.00, 791.00, 793.00, 795.00, 797.00, 799.00, 801.00, 803.00, 805.00, 807.00, 809.00, 811.00, 813.00, 815.00, 817.00, 819.00, 821.00, 823.00, 825.00, 827.00, 829.00, 831.00, 833.00, 835.00, 837.00, 839.00, 841.00, 843.00, 845.00, 847.00, 849.00, 851.00, 853.00, 855.00, 857.00, 859.00, 861.00, 863.00, 865.00, 867.00, 869.00, 871.00, 873.00, 875.00, 877.00, 879.00, 881.00, 883.00, 885.00, 887.00, 889.00, 891.00, 893.00, 895.00, 897.00, 899.00, 901.00, 903.00, 905.00, 907.00, 909.00, 911.00, 913.00, 915.00, 917.00, 919.00, 921.00, 923.00, 925.00, 927.00, 929.00, 931.00, 933.00, 935.00, 937.00, 939.00, 941.00, 943.00, 945.00, 947.00, 949.00, 951.00, 953.00, 955.00, 957.00, 959.00, 961.00, 963.00, 965.00, 967.00, 969.00, 971.00, 973.00, 975.00, 977.00, 979.00, 981.00, 983.00, 985.00, 987.00, 989.00, 991.00, 993.00, 995.00, 997.00, 999.00, 1001.00, 1003.00, 1005.00, 1007.00, 1009.00, 1011.00, 1013.00, 1015.00, 1017.00, 1019.00, 1021.00, 1023.00, 1025.00, 1027.00, 1029.00, 1031.00, 1033.00, 1035.00, 1037.00, 1039.00, 1041.00, 1043.00, 1045.00, 1047.00, 1049.00, 1051.00, 1053.00, 1055.00, 1057.00, 1059.00, 1061.00, 1063.00, 1065.00, 1067.00, 1069.00, 1071.00, 1073.00, 1075.00, 1077.00, 1079.00, 1081.00, 1083.00, 1085.00, 1087.00, 1089.00, 1091.00, 1093.00, 1095.00, 1097.00, 1099.00, 1101.00, 1103.00, 1105.00, 1107.00, 1109.00, 1111.00, 1113.00, 1115.00, 1117.00, 1119.00, 1121.00, 1123.00, 1125.00, 1127.00, 1129.00, 1131.00, 1133.00, 1135.00, 1137.00, 1139.00, 1141.00, 1143.00, 1145.00, 1147.00, 1149.00, 1151.00, 1153.00, 1155.00, 1157.00, 1159.00, 1161.00, 1163.00, 1165.00, 1167.00, 1169.00, 1171.00, 1173.00, 1175.00, 1177.00, 1179.00, 1181.00, 1183.00, 1185.00, 1187.00, 1189.00, 1191.00, 1193.00, 1195.00, 1197.00, 1199.00, 1201.00, 1203.00, 1205.00, 1207.00, 1209.00, 1211.00, 1213.00, 1215.00, 1217.00, 1219.00, 1221.00, 1223.00, 1225.00, 1227.00, 1229.00, 1231.00, 1233.00, 1235.00, 1237.00, 1239.00, 1241.00, 1243.00, 1245.00, 1247.00, 1249.00, 1251.00, 1253.00, 1255.00, 1257.00, 1259.00, 1261.00, 1263.00, 1265.00, 1267.00, 1269.00, 1271.00, 1273.00, 1275.00, 1277.00, 1279.00, 1281.00, 1283.00, 1285.00, 1287.00, 1289.00, 1291.00, 1293.00, 1295.00, 1297.00, 1299.00, 1301.00, 1303.00, 1305.00, 1307.00, 1309.00, 1311.00, 1313.00, 1315.00, 1317.00, 1319.00, 1321.00, 1323.00, 1325.00, 1327.00, 1329.00, 1331.00, 1333.00, 1335.00, 1337.00, 1339.00, 1341.00, 1343.00, 1345.00, 1347.00, 1349.00, 1351.00, 1353.00, 1355.00, 1357.00, 1359.00, 1361.00, 1363.00, 1365.00, 1367.00, 1369.00, 1371.00, 1373.00, 1375.00, 1377.00, 1379.00, 1381.00, 1383.00, 1385.00, 1387.00, 1389.00, 1391.00, 1393.00, 1395.00, 1397.00, 1399.00, 1401.00, 1403.00, 1405.00, 1407.00, 1409.00, 1411.00, 1413.00, 1415.00, 1417.00, 1419.00, 1421.00, 1423.00, 1425.00, 1427.00, 1429.00, 1431.00, 1433.00, 1435.00, 1437.00, 1439.00, 1441.00, 1443.00, 1445.00, 1447.00, 1449.00, 1451.00, 1453.00, 1455.00, 1457.00, 1459.00, 1461.00, 1463.00, 1465.00, 1467.00, 1469.00, 1471.00, 1473.00, 1475.00, 1477.00, 1479.00, 1481.00, 1483.00, 1485.00, 1487.00, 1489.00, 1491.00, 1493.00, 1495.00, 1497.00, 1499.00, 1501.00, 1503.00, 1505.00, 1507.00, 1509.00, 1511.00, 1513.00, 1515.00, 1517.00, 1519.00, 1521.00, 1523.00, 1525.00, 1527.00, 1529.00, 1531.00, 1533.00, 1535.00, 1537.00, 1539.00, 1541.00, 1543.00, 1545.00, 1547.00, 1549.00, 1551.00, 1553.00, 1555.00, 1557.00, 1559.00, 1561.00, 1563.00, 1565.00, 1567.00, 1569.00, 1571.00, 1573.00, 1575.00, 1577.00, 1579.00, 1581.00, 1583.00, 1585.00, 1587.00, 1589.00, 1591.00, 1593.00, 1595.00, 1597.00, 1599.00, 1601.00, 1603.00, 1605.00, 1607.00, 1609.00, 1611.00, 1613.00, 1615.00, 1617.00, 1619.00, 1621.00, 1623.00, 1625.00, 1627.00, 1629.00, 1631.00, 1633.00, 1635.00, 1637.00, 1639.00, 1641.00, 1643.00, 1645.00, 1647.00, 1649.00, 1651.00, 1653.00, 1655.00, 1657.00, 1659.00, 1661.00, 1663.00, 1665.00, 1667.00, 1669.00, 1671.00, 1673.00, 1675.00, 1677.00, 1679.00, 1681.00, 1683.00, 1685.00, 1687.00, 1689.00, 1691.00, 1693.00, 1695.00, 1697.00, 1699.00, 1701.00, 1703.00, 1705.00, 1707.00, 1709.00, 1711.00, 1713.00, 1715.00, 1717.00, 1719.00, 1721.00, 1723.00, 1725.00, 1727.00, 1729.00, 1731.00, 1733.00, 1735.00, 1737.00, 1739.00, 1741.00, 1743.00, 1745.00, 1747.00, 1749.00, 1751.00, 1753.00, 1755.00, 1757.00, 1759.00, 1761.00, 1763.00, 1765.00, 1767.00, 1769.00, 1771.00, 1773.00, 1775.00, 1777.00, 1779.00, 1781.00, 1783.00, 1785.00, 1787.00, 1789.00, 1791.00, 1793.00, 1795.00, 1797.00, 1799.00, 1801.00, 1803.00, 1805.00, 1807.00, 1809.00, 1811.00, 1813.00, 1815.00, 1817.00, 1819.00, 1821.00, 1823.00, 1825.00, 1827.00, 1829.00, 1831.00, 1833.00, 1835.00, 1837.00, 1839.00, 1841.00, 1843.00, 1845.00, 1847.00, 1849.00, 1851.00, 1853.00, 1855.00, 1857.00, 1859.00, 1861.00, 1863.00, 1865.00, 1867.00, 1869.00, 1871.00, 1873.00, 1875.00, 1877.00, 1879.00, 1881.00, 1883.00, 1885.00, 1887.00, 1889.00, 1891.00, 1893.00, 1895.00, 1897.00, 1899.00, 1901.00, 1903.00, 1905.00, 1907.00, 1909.00, 1911.00, 1913.00, 1915.00, 1917.00, 1919.00, 1921.00, 1923.00, 1925.00, 1927.00, 1929.00, 1931.00, 1933.00, 1935.00, 1937.00, 1939.00, 1941.00, 1943.00, 1945.00, 1947.00, 1949.00, 1951.00, 1953.00, 1955.00, 1957.00, 1959.00, 1961.00, 1963.00, 1965.00, 1967.00, 1969.00, 1971.00, 1973.00, 1975.00, 1977.00, 1979.00, 1981.00, 1983.00, 1985.00, 1987.00, 1989.00, 1991.00, 1993.00, 1995.00, 1997.00, 1999.00, 2001.00, 2003.00, 2005.00, 2007.00, 2009.00, 2011.00, 2013.00, 2015.00, 2017.00, 2019.00, 2021.00, 2023.00, 2025.00, 2027.00, 2029.00, 2031.00, 2033.00, 2035.00, 2037.00, 2039.00, 2041.00, 2043.00, 2045.00, 2047.00, 2049.00, 2051.00, 2053.00, 2055.00, 2057.00, 2059.00, 2061.00, 2063.00, 2065.00, 2067.00, 2069.00, 2071.00, 2073.00, 2075.00, 2077.00, 2079.00, 2081.00, 2083.00, 2085.00, 2087.00, 2089.00, 2091.00, 2093.00, 2095.00, 2097.00, 2099.00, 2101.00, 2103.00, 2105.00, 2107.00, 2109.00, 2111.00, 2113.00, 2115.00, 2117.00, 2119.00, 2121.00, 2123.00, 2125.00, 2127.00, 2129.00, 2131.00, 2133.00, 2135.00, 2137.00, 2139.00, 2141.00, 2143.00, 2145.00, 2147.00, 2149.00, 2151.00, 2153.00, 2155.00, 2157.00, 2159.00, 2161.00, 2163.00, 2165.00, 2167.00, 2169.00, 2171.00, 2173.00, 2175.00, 2177.00, 2179.00, 2181.00, 2183.00, 2185.00, 2187.00, 2189.00, 2191.00, 2193.00, 2195.00, 2197.00, 2199.00, 2201.00, 2203.00, 2205.00, 2207.00, 2209.00, 2211.00, 2213.00, 2215.00, 2217.00, 2219.00, 2221.00, 2223.00, 2225.00, 2227.00, 2229.00, 2231.00, 2233.00, 2235.00, 2237.00, 2239.00, 2241.00, 2243.00, 2245.00, 2247.00, 2249.00, 2251.00, 2253.00, 2255.00, 2257.00, 2259.00, 2261.00, 2263.00, 2265.00, 2267.00, 2269.00, 2271.00, 2273.00, 2275.00, 2277.00, 2279.00, 2281.00, 2283.00, 2285.00, 2287.00, 2289.00, 2291.00, 2293.00, 2295.00, 2297.00, 2299.00, 2301.00, 2303.00, 2305.00, 2307.00, 2309.00, 2311.00, 2313.00, 2315.00, 2317.00, 2319.00, 2321.00, 2323.00, 2325.00, 2327.00, 2329.00, 2331.00, 2333.00, 2335.00, 2337.00, 2339.00, 2341.00, 2343.00, 2345.00, 2347.00, 2349.00, 2351.00, 2353.00, 2355.00, 2357.00, 2359.00, 2361.00, 2363.00, 2365.00, 2367.00, 2369.00, 2371.00, 2373.00, 2375.00, 2377.00, 2379.00, 2381.00, 2383.00, 2385.00, 2387.00, 2389.00, 2391.00, 2393.00, 2395.00, 2397.00, 2399.00, 2401.00, 2403.00, 2405.00, 2407.00, 2409.00, 2411.00, 2413.00, 2415.00, 2417.00, 2419.00, 2421.00, 2423.00, 2425.00, 2427.00, 2429.00, 2431.00, 2433.00, 2435.00, 2437.00, 2439.00, 2441.00, 2443.00, 2445.00, 2447.00, 2449.00, 2451.00, 2453.00, 2455.00, 2457.00, 2459.00, 2461.00, 2463.00, 2465.00, 2467.00, 2469.00, 2471.00, 2473.00, 2475.00, 2477.00, 2479.00, 2481.00, 2483.00, 2485.00, 2487.00, 2489.00, 2491.00, 2493.00, 2495.00, 2497.00, 2499.00, 2501.00, 2503.00, 2505.00, 2507.00, 2509.00, 2511.00, 2513.00, 2515.00, 2517.00, 2519.0



## Travel

## Cuba, then and now

When General Fulgencio Batista, the Cuban dictator, fled from the fury of the revolution, he took with him all the island's tourists. He left behind him deserted beaches, hotels, nightclubs and casinos, many reputedly owned by the Mafia. Overnight the "whorehouse of America", as Cuba had become known, lost all its customers.

For a young reporter, the heady days which followed Castro's triumph were a bit like being on holiday. The island, suddenly emptied of tourists, quickly became an adventure playground for the swarms of newsmen who descended on this Marxist Ruritania, with its colourful, bushy-bearded leader.

There were show trials, floodlit executions, hijackings and a furious war of words with the United States, just 90 miles away. American property (save for the home of Ernest Hemingway) was nationalized, while exiled Cuban pilots would sneak across from Florida and firebomb the island's precious sugar crop. But the holiday-makers, once Cuba's lifeblood, stayed away in droves.

In the evenings, when the day's cables had been sent, there were frozen rum daiquiris, mojitos and Cuba Libres to be lined up along the bar of the legendary Floridita. If one were lucky, one might even glimpse Papa Hemingway himself there, propping the bar on which stood (and still does) his bust in bronze. Just occasionally, too, Fidel Castro or Che Guevara would be sighted at

one of Havana's numerous watering holes. Then came the Bay of Pigs invasion, and the honeymoon was suddenly over. Thousands of terrified Cubans, and a number of hapless foreigners, found themselves behind bars. My own hair-raising last week on the island was spent in a secret police cell trying to convince an interrogator of the innocence of my comings and goings from New York. I was fortunate, eventually being freed. But when I left Havana airport I never expected to see the island again.

That was 20 years ago. Now, badly in need of foreign currency with which to elude his shrinking Soviet subsidies, Fidel Castro has launched a campaign to attract western tourists back to the island after its long years of isolation.

It was with some trepidation therefore that I joined a small group of journalists, I recently flew into the same airport which I had left so precipitately in 1961. We had been invited to look the island over on behalf of would-be holidaymakers from Britain.

The hope, obviously, was that we would direct our attention to the island's tourist attractions, so long forgotten in the West. But one could hardly be expected to turn one's eyes from the changes which, wittingly or unwittingly, Castro has brought about in the lives of Cubans. And nothing, I found, had changed more than the Cubans themselves.

Where were those carefree, samba-loving islanders I remembered? Today the Cubans seem withdrawn, almost glum, by comparison. Perhaps this is the result of years of acute shortages of food, clothing and almost everything else—which they have had to suffer. Or maybe it is just living in a police state does to one. For Ramiro Valdes, now Minister of the Interior, instilling one gathers, as much foreboding into Cubans as he once did into me.

And where were all those crowds I remembered strolling on the streets and in the squares? What had happened to those dark-eyed señoritas who once gazed so boldly into one's eyes as they passed in the street? I can only guess that the answer lies in the all too well-known statistics. In just over two decades of Castro's rule, one million Cubans have fled the island, while between April and September last (1980), a further 125,000 voted with

their feet and chose to go into exile. Another 65,000 are serving overseas.

Once the architectural pride of the entire Caribbean, in its heyday Havana was an exciting mixture of some of the most imaginative contemporary architecture (Mafia financed, the Cubans now claim) and traditional Spanish colonial buildings. Today it has become a shabby, uncared-for city of crumbling facades, broken pavements, half-empty shops and wheezing American cars of pre-revolutionary vintage (kept going, it is whispered, on spare parts which have fallen from the backs of Russian lorries). The only additions to Havana's skyline are the graceful apartment and office blocks of East European inspiration.

After this rather sombre portrait of modern Cuba—a reflection, certainly, of my own disappointment—would I recommend anyone else to go there? The answer is yes. For the more adventurous, Cuba, has much to offer still.

For a start the island is extraordinarily beautiful. Lapped by lapis-blue seas, it is still as lovely today as it must have seemed to its European discoverer, Christopher Columbus, who declared it to be the most beautiful island ever seen by human eye. It takes money to ruin a coastline, and Cuba has little enough of this. Indeed, after a few false starts, the Cubans are showing discrimination and taste in placing and designing their new resorts.

With their pristine sand and coconut palms, the island's beaches are certainly among the finest and least spoiled anywhere. There is little crowding, although you may well find yourself exchanging deck-chair confidences with a professor from Plymouth or playing beach football with a frolicsome shop steward, or a bikini from Semipalatinsk.

Cuba may be a police state, but to the foreigner it seems no more threatening than Weston-Super-Mare, indeed perhaps rather safer. The Cubans, if nervous, are welcoming and helpful. Moreover, it is not expensive. Pegasus Holidays of London, whose guest I was, are offering, from next May, one-week, full-board packages from only £247. Each additional week costs just £31. Prices vary, of course, with the hotel, resort and time of year. Charter flights of Russian-built Il-62 airliners of Cubana will leave Gatwick weekly, refuelling at Gander on the outward flight,

but flying non-stop on the faster homeward run.

Food is plentiful, although on the whole unexciting. However, one is only too conscious that ordinary Cubans are faring much less well, with meat only twice a week, for one is eating a cynical colleague suggested that they must pay through the nose for it on the official black market, or so-called parallel market, where a chicken can cost £17. Disappointingly, we were given little fish, although a cynical colleague suggested that this was because so many fishermen had sailed away into exile.

Despite its run-down appearance, Havana itself has quite a lot to offer, with museums, galleries and a fine corniche looking out across the magnificent Caribbean towards America. The Florida, alas, is temporarily shut, but the equally famous Bodeguita del Medio, a charming Cuban-style bistro, is still open for business

at around £5 a head. This, too, was once a haunt of Hemingway and of the Cuban leaders in the early days of the revolution.

The starry-eyed radical or politically conscious visitor will not find it easy to get close to the revolution which the Cubans regard as their own affair. Indeed, it is virtually impossible to buy revolutionary posters or T-shirts. However, one's official Cuban guide will proudly point out the many new clinics, schools and hospitals which are among the real achievements of the July 26 revolution.

For Hemingway fans there is a treat in store in the small town of San Francisco de Paula. There stands his old home, where the Nobel Prize-winner lived for much of the last 20 years of his life. Today it has been turned into the Museo Hemingway, its living rooms carefully preserved just as they were the day he left the island for the last time in 1961, shortly

before his suicide. Through the windows—for you are not allowed in—you can see his library, his hunting rifles and many trophies, and the typewriter on which he hammered out his Cuban epic *The Old Man and the Sea*.

Yes, I believe that one ought to give Cuba a try. I might even return myself—if they will have me.

Individual return fares, London to Havana via Madrid, by Iberia or Air Cubana: Normal economy low season: £558, high season £529. Excursion (minimum 14 days): £492. In addition to Pegasus, Regent Holidays of Bristol offer packages in conjunction with an American tour operator, travelling via Miami, from £440 all in, for ten days, seven spent in Cuba.

Peter Hopkirk

## Gardening

## Hang it

Until recently I was never enamoured of hanging baskets or half-baskets for hanging on walls. We have always had too many other jobs to do to leave time for climbing steps to water them.

But now there are some neat pulley kits on the market which enable you to "anchor" the basket at any level, just by pulling the cord sideways, and we also have the "Roots" system which waters a dozen or more baskets at the turn of a tap.

So this year I have been studying with more interest the plants we could grow in baskets, not only outdoors but in garden rooms and porches and especially in the greenhouse.

It is in the greenhouse, sun lounge or garden room that I would like to begin if it can be kept at a minimum night temperature of 45-50 deg. F. Probably the best plant of all is the fuchsia, provided you obtain some of the trailing varieties especially suitable for hanging baskets. New varieties appear all the time but among my favourites are "Swinglows", red and white, "Falling Stars", light and dark red, "Cascade", light and dark red, and "Golden Marinka", red flowers and golden foliage.

If there is a drawback to fuchsias indoors it is that they are the favourite diet of white fly and you have to keep up a constant battle with a suitable spray every 10-14 days to keep

this nasty pest under control. The pendulous, tuberous begonias are splendid plants for hanging baskets. They come with double or semi-double flowers, pink, scarlet or orange. They cost about 50p each but I do not consider this dear because, like all tuberous begonias, you can cut the tubers into sections next year, yielding there is a shoot to each section, and in a year or two build up quite a large stock.

Busy lizzies, varieties of impatiens and browallias, are also good plants for our purpose. Dobbies offer a special collection of seeds of a red impatiens called the *Browallia* "Blue Troll" and B. "White Troll" giving, if you wish to demonstrate your patriotism, a combination of red, white and blue. They will give of their best under cover but can be hung outside from mid-June to late August.

No hanging basket is complete without some trailing lobelia. There are several varieties, pale blue, deep blue with a white eye and a rosy red variety also with a white eye. We prefer the pale or dark blue varieties and have given a packet of each in recent years.

Seed of lobelia should be sown soon in a propagating case at a temperature of around 60 deg. F as it grows slowly.

When the seedlings are large enough prick them off into boxes, peat pots or jiffy 74, three to five seedlings to a little bunch. They are too small to prick off individually and anyway three or four together make a decent sized plant more quickly. This trick of pricking off a tuft of several seedlings works well with some other plants, notably primulas.

It may be a bit extravagant if you have to buy the seeds, but if you save your own primula seeds, and most primulas produce seeds generously, there is no problem.

And we must not forget geraniums for hanging baskets. The ivy-leaved varieties are splendid for baskets. You will get pleasure all summer from the double pink flowered "Madame Crousse" and "L'Elegance", a white flowered variety with leaves that are edged with white and which turn rosy purple in autumn or if they are kept too dry.

Two years ago Hurst Seeds introduced their "Mickey Mouse" range of flower and vegetable seeds for children, featuring on the packet the popular Walt Disney cartoon characters. They proved so popular that the firm has now added five more vegetable varieties. One, containing swede seeds, shows besides normal swede roots one hollowed out for Halloween with a splendid witch and Donald Duck's twin nephews.

Another shows Pluto holding a giant marrow. On the back are instructions for growing outsized marrows with sugar solution fed into the fruit from a jam jar by a length of wool. The idea of scratching your name on a small marrow and watching it grow is also described.

Roy Hay

## Chess

## All-weather player

Where and when is the best place and time to play chess? Your true aficionado would reply anywhere and I, being what the eighteenth century would have called somewhat disapprovingly, a chess enthusiast (it meant in those days someone more than eccentric and only a little less than insane) have indeed played chess in almost every possible circumstance.

Chess is an ideal way of passing the time during long voyages. In 1939 when the chess olympiad was held in Buenos Aires, the Argentine Chess Federation chartered a Belgian boat that took the assembled European players from Antwerp to Buenos Aires in a leisurely journey with many stops since the vessel was a cargo boat. As can be imagined, much chess was played and we had a lightning tournament whilst the boat was passing through the Bay of Biscay. We were allowed two seconds per move and had to move whenever a gong was beaten. In a semi-final of the competition I was faced by the Latvian master Apšchenev who was noted at one of the world's best lightning chess players.

But the Latvian was not a good sailor whereas at that time I was. As the boat went up and down through the storm-tossed waves of the Bay of Biscay, my opponent took more and more time over his moves. The trouble was that if he took more than ten seconds for his move then I was left with less than ten to make my reply.

Time-keeper at this game was B. H. Wood, editor of Chess. Noting that Apšchenev was exceeding the time-limit, he first of all warned him and then forfeited his game. When, later on in the voyage, we had another great lightning tournament, while passing through the Santa Caterina bay waters which were as stormy as those of the Bay of Biscay, the Latvian master was not a participant.

Chess on a summer afternoon in the shade of a peach-tree, or once saw being played in a fruit farm on the lower slopes of a mountain outside Sofia in a winter afternoon when the imitation coal-fire is glowing merrily on the hearth and you are faced by an opponent who is of equal calibre, or just as big a mug as you are.

Or, if there is no opponent handy, then play over the game of a great master, for example, this one of Tony Miles, which is a game of beautifully controlled ferocity. It was played in a strong international tournament at Vrbas in Yugoslavia where the British grandmaster was first, ahead of such distinguished players as Petrosian, Yusupov, Adorjan and Sax.

White: B. Ivancovic. Black: A. Miles. Sicilian Defence.

1 P-K4 P-B4 2 N-B3 B-N5 3 B-N3 P-B3 4 N-B3 P-B3 5 P-B3 P-B3 6 P-B3 P-B3 7 P-B3 P-B3 8 P-B3 P-B3 9 P-B3 P-B3 10 P-B3 P-B3 11 P-B3 P-B3 12 P-B3 P-B3 13 P-B3 P-B3 14 P-B3 P-B3 15 P-B3 P-B3 16 P-B3 P-B3 17 P-B3 P-B3 18 P-B3 P-B3 19 P-B3 P-B3 20 P-B3 P-B3 21 P-B3 P-B3 22 P-B3 P-B3 23 P-B3 P-B3 24 P-B3 P-B3 25 P-B3 P-B3 26 P-B3 P-B3 27 P-B3 P-B3 28 P-B3 P-B3 29 P-B3 P-B3 30 P-B3 P-B3 31 P-B3 P-B3 32 P-B3 P-B3 33 P-B3 P-B3 34 P-B3 P-B3 35 P-B3 P-B3 36 P-B3 P-B3 37 P-B3 P-B3 38 P-B3 P-B3 39 P-B3 P-B3 40 P-B3 P-B3 41 P-B3 P-B3 42 P-B3 P-B3 43 P-B3 P-B3 44 P-B3 P-B3 45 P-B3 P-B3 46 P-B3 P-B3 47 P-B3 P-B3 48 P-B3 P-B3 49 P-B3 P-B3 50 P-B3 P-B3 51 P-B3 P-B3 52 P-B3 P-B3 53 P-B3 P-B3 54 P-B3 P-B3 55 P-B3 P-B3 56 P-B3 P-B3 57 P-B3 P-B3 58 P-B3 P-B3 59 P-B3 P-B3 60 P-B3 P-B3 61 P-B3 P-B3 62 P-B3 P-B3 63 P-B3 P-B3 64 P-B3 P-B3 65 P-B3 P-B3 66 P-B3 P-B3 67 P-B3 P-B3 68 P-B3 P-B3 69 P-B3 P-B3 70 P-B3 P-B3 71 P-B3 P-B3 72 P-B3 P-B3 73 P-B3 P-B3 74 P-B3 P-B3 75 P-B3 P-B3 76 P-B3 P-B3 77 P-B3 P-B3 78 P-B3 P-B3 79 P-B3 P-B3 80 P-B3 P-B3 81 P-B3 P-B3 82 P-B3 P-B3 83 P-B3 P-B3 84 P-B3 P-B3 85 P-B3 P-B3 86 P-B3 P-B3 87 P-B3 P-B3 88 P-B3 P-B3 89 P-B3 P-B3 90 P-B3 P-B3 91 P-B3 P-B3 92 P-B3 P-B3 93 P-B3 P-B3 94 P-B3 P-B3 95 P-B3 P-B3 96 P-B3 P-B3 97 P-B3 P-B3 98 P-B3 P-B3 99 P-B3 P-B3 100 P-B3 P-B3 101 P-B3 P-B3 102 P-B3 P-B3 103 P-B3 P-B3 104 P-B3 P-B3 105 P-B3 P-B3 106 P-B3 P-B3 107 P-B3 P-B3 108 P-B3 P-B3 109 P-B3 P-B3 110 P-B3 P-B3 111 P-B3 P-B3 112 P-B3 P-B3 113 P-B3 P-B3 114 P-B3 P-B3 115 P-B3 P-B3 116 P-B3 P-B3 117 P-B3 P-B3 118 P-B3 P-B3 119 P-B3 P-B3 120 P-B3 P-B3 121 P-B3 P-B3 122 P-B3 P-B3 123 P-B3 P-B3 124 P-B3 P-B3 125 P-B3 P-B3 126 P-B3 P-B3 127 P-B3 P-B3 128 P-B3 P-B3 129 P-B3 P-B3 130 P-B3 P-B3 131 P-B3 P-B3 132 P-B3 P-B3 133 P-B3 P-B3 134 P-B3 P-B3 135 P-B3 P-B3 136 P-B3 P-B3 137 P-B3 P-B3 138 P-B3 P-B3 139 P-B3 P-B3 140 P-B3 P-B3 141 P-B3 P-B3 142 P-B3 P-B3 143 P-B3 P-B3 144 P-B3 P-B3 145 P-B3 P-B3 146 P-B3 P-B3 147 P-B3 P-B3 148 P-B3 P-B3 149 P-B3 P-B3 150 P-B3 P-B3 151 P-B3 P-B3 152 P-B3 P-B3 153 P-B3 P-B3 154 P-B3 P-B3 155 P-B3 P-B3 156 P-B3 P-B3 157 P-B3 P-B3 158 P-B3 P-B3 159 P-B3 P-B3 160 P-B3 P-B3 161 P-B3 P-B3 162 P-B3 P-B3 163 P-B3 P-B3 164 P-B3 P-B3 165 P-B3 P-B3 166 P-B3 P-B3 167 P-B3 P-B3 168 P-B3 P-B3 169 P-B3 P-B3 170 P-B3 P-B3 171 P-B3 P-B3 172 P-B3 P-B3 173 P-B3 P-B3 174 P-B3 P-B3 175 P-B3 P-B3 176 P-B3 P-B3 177 P-B3 P-B3 178 P-B3 P-B3 179 P-B3 P-B3 180 P-B3 P-B3 181 P-B3 P-B3 182 P-B3 P-B3 183 P-B3 P-B3 184 P-B3 P-B3 185 P-B3 P-B3 186 P-B3 P-B3 187 P-B3 P-B3 188 P-B3 P-B3 189 P-B3 P-B3 190 P-B3 P-B3 191 P-B3 P-B3 192 P-B3 P-B3 193 P-B3 P-B3 194 P-B3 P-B3 195 P-B3 P-B3 196 P-B3 P-B3 197 P-B3 P-B3 198 P-B3 P-B3 199 P-B3 P-B3 200 P-B3 P-B3 201 P-B3 P-B3 202 P-B3 P-B3 203 P-B3 P-B3 204 P-B3 P-B3 205 P-B3 P-B3 206 P-B3 P-B3 207 P-B3 P-B3 208 P-B3 P-B3 209 P-B3 P-B3 210 P-B3 P-B3 211 P-B3 P-B3 212 P-B3 P-B3 213 P-B3 P-B3 214 P-B3 P-B3 215 P-B3 P-B3 216 P-B3 P-B3 217 P-B3 P-B3 218 P-B3 P-B3 219 P-B3 P-B3 220 P-B3 P-B3 221 P-B3 P-B3 222 P-B3 P-B3 223 P-B3 P-B3 224 P-B3 P-B3 225 P-B3 P-B3 226 P-B3 P-B3 227 P-B3 P-B3 228 P-B3 P-B3 229 P-B3 P-B3 230 P-B3 P-B3 231 P-B3 P-B3 232 P-B3 P-B3 233 P-B3 P-B3 234 P-B3 P-B3 235 P-B3 P-B3 236 P-B3 P-B3 237 P-B3 P-B3 238 P-B3 P-B3 239 P-B3 P-B3 240 P-B3 P-B3 241 P-B3 P-B3 242 P-B3 P-B3 243 P-B3 P-B3 244 P-B3 P-B3 245 P-B3 P-B3 246 P-B3 P-B3 247 P-B3 P-B3 248 P-B3 P-B3 249 P-B3 P-B3 250 P-B3 P-B3 251 P-B3 P-B3 252 P-B3 P-B3 253 P-B3 P-B3 254 P-B3 P-B3 255 P-B3 P-B3 256 P-B3 P-B3 257 P-B3 P-B3 258 P-B3 P-B3 259 P-B3 P-B3 260 P-B3 P-B3 261 P-B3 P-B3 262 P-B3 P-B3 263 P-B3 P-B3 264 P-B3 P-B3 265 P-B3 P-B3 266 P-B3 P-B3 267 P-B3 P-B3 268 P-B3 P-B3 269 P-B3 P-B3 270 P-B3 P-B3 271 P-B3 P-B3 272 P-B3 P-B3 273 P-B3 P-B3 274 P-B3 P-B3 275 P-B3 P-B3 276 P-B3 P-B3 277 P-B3 P-B3 278 P-B3 P-B3 279 P-B3 P-B3 280 P-B3 P-B3 281 P-B3 P-B3 282 P-B3 P-B3 283 P-B3 P-B3 284 P-B3 P-B3 285 P-B3 P-B3 286 P-B3 P-B3 287 P-B3 P-B3 288 P-B3 P-B3 289 P-B3 P-B3 290 P-B3 P-B3 291 P-B3 P-B3 292 P-B3 P-B3 293 P-B3 P-B3 294 P-B3 P-B3 295 P-B3 P-B3 296 P-B3 P-B3 297 P-B3 P-B3 298 P-B3 P-B3 299 P-B3 P-B3 300 P-B3 P-B3 301 P-B3 P-B3 302 P-B3 P-B3 303 P-B3 P-B3 304 P-B3 P-B3 305 P-B3 P-B3 306 P-B3 P-B3 307 P-B3 P-B3 308 P-B3 P-B3 309 P-B3 P-B3 310 P-B3 P-B3 311 P-B3 P-B3 312 P-B3 P-B3 313 P-B3 P-B3 314 P-B3 P-B3 315 P-B3 P-B3 316 P-B3 P-B3 317 P-B3 P-B3 318 P-B3 P-B3 319 P-B3 P-B3 320 P-B3 P-B3 321 P-B3 P-B3 322 P-B3 P-B3 323 P-B3 P-B3 324 P-B3 P-B3 325 P-B3 P-B3 326 P-B3 P-B3 327 P-B3 P-B3 328 P-B3 P-B3 329 P-B3 P-B3 330 P-B3 P-B3 331 P-B3 P-B3 332 P-B3 P-B3 333 P-B3 P-B3 334 P-B3 P-B3 335 P-B3 P-B3 336 P-B3 P-B3 337 P-B3 P-B3 338 P-B3 P-B3 339 P-B3 P-B3 340 P-B3 P-B3 341 P-B3 P-B3 342 P-B3 P-B3 343 P-B3 P-B3 344 P-B3 P-B3 345 P-B3 P-B3 346 P-B3 P-B3 347 P-B3 P-B3 348 P-B3 P-B3 349 P-B3 P-B3 350 P-B3 P-B3 351 P-B3 P-B3 352 P-B3 P-B3 353 P-B3 P-B3 354 P-B3 P-B3 355 P-B3 P-B3 356 P-B3 P-B3 357 P-B3 P-B3 358 P-B3 P-B3 359 P-B3 P-B3 360 P-B3 P-B3 361 P-B3 P-B3 362 P-B3 P-B3 363 P-B3 P-B3 364 P-B3 P-B3 365 P-B3 P-B3 366 P-B3 P-B3 367 P-B3 P-B3 368 P-B3 P-B3 369 P-B3 P-B3 370 P-B3 P-B3 371 P-B3 P-B3 372 P-B3 P-B3 373 P-B3 P-B3 374 P-B3 P-B3 375 P-B3 P-B3 376 P-B3 P-B3 377 P-B3 P-B3 378 P-B3 P-B3 379 P-B3 P-B3 380 P-B3 P-B3 381 P-B3 P-B3 382 P-B3 P-B3 383 P-B3 P-B3 384 P-B3 P-B3 385 P-B3 P-B3 386 P-B3 P-B3 387 P-B3 P-B3 388 P-B3 P-B3 389 P-B3 P-B3 390 P-B3 P-B3 391 P-B3 P-B3 392 P-B3 P-B3 393 P-B3 P-B3 394 P-B3 P-B3 395 P-B3 P-B3 396 P-B3 P-B3 397 P-B3 P-B3 398 P-B3 P-B3 399 P-B3 P-B3 400 P-B3 P-B3 401 P-B3 P-B3 402 P-B3 P-B3 403 P-B3 P-B3 404 P-B3 P-B3 405 P-B3 P-B3 406 P-B3 P-B3 407 P-B3 P-B3 408 P-B3 P-B3 409 P-B3 P-B3 410 P-B3 P-B3 411 P-B3 P-B3 412 P-B3 P-B3 413 P-B3 P-B3 414 P-B3 P-B3 415 P-B3 P-B3 416 P-B3 P-B3 417 P-B3 P-B3 418 P-B3 P-B3 419 P-B3 P-B3 420 P-B3 P-B3 421 P-B3 P-B3 422 P-B3 P-B3 423 P-B3 P-B3 424 P-B3 P-B3 425 P-B3 P-B3 426 P-B3 P-B3 427 P-B3 P-B3 428 P-B3 P-B3 429 P-B3 P-B3 430 P-B3 P-B3 431 P-B3 P-B3 432 P-B3 P-B3 433 P-B3 P-B3 434 P-B3 P-B3 435 P-B3 P-B3 436 P-B3 P-B3 437 P-B3 P-B3 438 P-B3 P-B3 439 P-B3 P-B3 440 P-B3 P-B3 441 P-B3 P-B3 442 P-B3 P-B3 443 P-B3 P-B3 444 P-B3 P-B3 445 P-B3 P-B3 446 P-B3 P-B3 447 P-B3 P-B3 448 P-B3 P-B3 449 P-B3 P-B3 450 P-B3 P-B3 451 P-B3 P-B3 452 P-B3 P-B3 453 P-B3 P-B3 454 P-B3 P-B3 455 P-B3 P-B3 456 P-B3 P-B3 457 P-B3 P-B3 458 P-B3 P-B3 459 P-B3 P-B3 460 P-B3 P-B3 461 P-B3 P-B3 462 P-B3 P-B3 463 P-B3 P-B3 464 P-B3 P-B3 465 P-B3 P-B3 466 P-B3 P-B3 467 P-B3 P-B3 468 P-B3 P-B3 469 P-B3 P-B3 470 P-B3 P-B3 471 P-B3 P-B3 472 P-B3 P-B3 473 P-B3 P-B3 474 P-B3 P-B3 475 P-B3 P-B3 476 P-B3 P-B3 477 P-B3 P-B3 478 P-B3 P-B3 479 P-B3 P-B3 480 P-B3 P-B3 481 P-B3 P-B3 482 P-B3 P-B3 483 P-B3 P-B3 484 P-B3 P-B3 485 P-B3 P-B3 486 P-B3 P-B3 487 P-B3 P-B3 488 P-B3 P-B3 489 P-B3 P-B3 490 P-B3 P-B3 491 P-B3 P-B3 492 P-B3 P-B3 493 P-B3 P-B3 494 P-B3 P-B3 495 P-B3 P-B3 496 P-B3 P-B3 497 P-B3 P-B3 498 P-B3 P-B3 499 P-B3 P-B3 500 P-B3 P-B3 501 P-B3 P-B3 502 P-B3 P-B3 503 P-B3 P-B3 504 P-B3 P-B3 505 P-B3 P-B3 506 P-B3 P-B3 507 P-B3 P-B3 508 P-B3 P-B3 509 P-B3 P-B3 510 P-B3 P-B3 511 P-B3 P-B3 512 P-B3 P-B3 513 P-B3 P-B3 514 P-B3 P-B3 515 P-B3 P-B3 516 P-B3 P-B3 517 P-B3 P-B3 518 P-B3 P-B3 519 P-B3 P-B3 520 P-B3 P-B3 521 P-B3 P-B3 522 P-B3 P-B3 523 P-B3 P-B3 524 P-B3 P-B3 525 P-B3 P-B3 526 P-B3 P-B3 527 P-B3 P-B3 528 P-B3 P-B3 529 P-B3 P-B3 530 P-B3 P-B3 531 P-B3 P-B3 532 P-B3 P-B3 533 P-B3 P-B3 534 P-B3 P-B3 535 P-B3 P-B3 536 P-B3 P-B3 537 P-B3 P-B3 538 P-B3 P-B3 539 P-B3 P-B3 540 P-B3 P-B3 541 P-B3 P-B3 542 P-B3 P-B3 543 P-B3 P-B3 544 P-B3 P-B3 545 P-B3 P-B3 546 P-B3 P-B3 547 P-B3 P-B3 548 P-B3 P-B3 549 P-B3 P-B3 550 P-B3 P-B3 551 P-B3 P-B3 552 P-B3 P-B3 553 P-B3 P-B3 554 P-B3 P-B3 555 P-B3 P-B3 556 P-B3 P-B3 557 P-B3 P-B3 558 P-B3 P-B3 559 P-B3 P-B3 560 P-B3 P-B3 561 P-B3 P-B3 562 P-B3 P-B3 563 P-B3 P-B3 564 P-B3 P-B3 565 P-B3 P-B3 566 P-B3 P-B3 567 P-B3 P-B3 568 P-B3 P-B3 569 P-B3 P-B3 570 P-B3 P-B3 571 P-B3 P-B3 572 P-B3 P-B3 573 P-B3 P-B3 574 P-B3 P-B3 575 P-B3 P-B3 576 P-B3 P-B3 577 P-B3 P-B3 578 P-B3 P-B3 579 P-B3 P-B3 580 P-B3 P-B3 581 P-B3 P-B3 582 P-B3 P-B3 583 P-B3 P-B3 584 P-B3 P-B3 585 P-B3 P-B3 586 P-B3 P-B3 587 P-B3 P-B3 588 P-B3 P-B3 589 P-B3 P-B3 590 P-B3 P-B3 591 P-B3 P-B3 592 P-B3 P-B3 593 P-B3 P-B3 594 P-B3 P-B3 595 P-B3 P-B3 596 P-B3 P-B3 597 P-B3 P-B3 598 P-B3 P-B3 599 P-B3 P-B3 600 P-B3 P-B3 601 P-B3 P-B3 602 P-B3 P-B3 603 P-B3 P-B3 604 P-B3 P-B3 605 P-B3 P-B3 606 P-B3 P-B3 607 P-B3 P-B3 608 P-B3 P-B3 609 P-B3 P-B3 610 P-B3 P-B3 611 P-B3 P-B3 612 P-B3 P-B3 613 P-B3 P-B3 614 P-B3 P-B3 615 P-B3 P-B3 616 P-B3 P-B3 617 P-B3 P-B3 618 P-B3 P-B3 619 P-B3 P-B3 620 P-B3 P-B3 621 P-B3 P-B3 622 P-B3 P-B3 623 P-B3 P-B3 624 P-B3 P-B3 625 P-B3 P-B3 626 P-B3 P-B3 627 P-B3 P-B3 628 P-B3 P-B3 629 P-B3 P-B3 630 P-B3 P-B3 631 P-B3 P-B3 632 P-B3 P-B3 633 P-B3 P-B3 634 P-B3 P-B3 635 P-B3 P-B3 636 P-B3 P-B3 637 P-B3 P-B3 638 P-B3 P-B3 639 P-B3 P-B3 640 P-B3 P-B3 641 P-B3 P-B3 642 P-B3 P-B3 643 P-B3 P-B3 644 P-B3 P-B3 645 P-B3 P-B3 646 P-B3 P-B3 647 P-B3 P-B3 648 P-B3 P-B3 649 P-B3 P-B3 650 P-B3 P-B3 651 P-B3 P-B3 652 P-B3 P-B3 653 P-B3 P-B3 654 P-B3 P-B3 655 P-B3 P-B3 656 P-B3 P-B3 657 P-B3 P-B3 658 P-B3 P-B3 659 P-B3 P-B3 660 P-B3 P-B3 661 P-B3 P-B3 662 P-B3 P-B3 663 P-B3 P-B3 664 P-B3 P-B3 665 P-B3 P-B3 666 P-B3 P-B3 667 P-B3 P-B3 668 P-B3 P-B3 669 P-B3 P-B3 670 P-B3 P-B3 671 P-B3 P-B3 672 P-B3 P-B3 673 P-B3 P-B3 674 P-B3 P-B3 675 P-B3 P-B3 676 P-B3 P-B3 677 P-B3 P-B3 678 P-B3 P-B3 679 P-B3 P-B3 680 P-B3 P-B3 681 P-B3 P-B3 682 P-B3 P-B3 683 P-B3 P-B3 684 P-B3 P-B3 685 P-B3 P-B3 686 P-B3 P-B3 687 P-B3 P-B3 688 P-B3 P-B3 689 P-B3 P-B3 690 P-B3 P-B3 691 P-B3 P-B3 692 P-B3 P-B3 693 P-B3 P-B3 694 P-B3 P-B3 695 P-B3 P-B3 696 P-B3 P-B3 697 P-B3 P-B3 698 P-B3 P-B3 699 P-B3 P-B3 700 P-B3 P-B3 701 P-B3 P-B3 702 P-B3 P-B3 703 P-B3 P-B3 704 P-B3 P-B3 705 P-B3 P-B3 706 P-B3 P-B3 707 P-B3 P-B3 708 P-B3 P-B3 709 P-B3 P-B3 710 P-B3 P-B3 711 P-B3 P-B3 712 P-B3 P-B3 713 P-B3 P-B3 714 P-B3 P-B3 715 P-B3 P-B3 716 P-B3 P-B3 717 P-B3 P-B3 718 P-B3 P-B3 719 P-B3 P-B3 720 P-B3 P-B3 721 P-B3 P-B3 722 P-B3 P-B3 723 P-B3 P-B3 724 P-B3 P-B3 7







Fred Emery

# Not a happy time for the Tories either

The only character missing from this week's incoherent political realignment was a Tory defector. Then, sure enough, up pops Mr Robert Hicks, Conservative MP for Bodmin, to venture, in effect, that 20 of his colleagues might be catching centre party fever.

Less a defection than an infection, it seems. None the less, as amplified by Central Office, in the rush to get out his resignation is a good indication of how far the genie of the middle ground is now out of the political bottle. We should not be deceived by the understandable concentration on Labour's compulsive dramas; the Tories are unsettled, too. Now, to clear one point away, not for a moment is it being advanced that Tory MPs will be found among the next batch of supporters for the Council for Social Democracy. But what is being expressed by Mr Hicks, and others less openly, is their concern that Mrs Thatcher's Government has already gone too far from the centre ground to get back in time. In time, here, meaning, the next election.

Were it not for Labour's convulsions, they say, the plight of the party government and the country would be coming under far greater scrutiny. Just look back at this past week. Ever rising unemployment; "appalling", is Mr James Prior's word. And it is a haemorrhage attributed by more and more Tories to the Government's stubborn refusal to cut interest rates further.

How much more of this can we take? The question has spread in dissident Tory circles, where there is talk of a cauldron of discontent. They

hope that the "wets" in Cabinet are going to have a crack at reversing policy before the Budget is immovably fixed.

Still other Conservatives, doubtless a majority, were hoping to impress the middle-ground voters with new policies. Thatcherism was going to be different. Yet here is Sir Keith Joseph handing out substantial subsidies to industry. This is the "constructive intervention" of which the Prime Minister boasts? Last week, BL, possibly next week more billions for British Steel. Does the Government know where it's going?

Such Conservatives are worried, in fact, that the "wets" may already have won the policy argument. They listen and hear the Thatcherite rhetoric although they note that there is not much mention now of monetary control. But they suspect that U-turns have been well under way since last autumn, when Mrs Thatcher and her Treasury ministers could not get their way on the full extent of public spending cuts.

The complaints are contradictory. But the unease from either Tory wing combines over the fact that the Government, nearing the end of its second year, has precious little evidence to offer that its policies are working. Inflation down, yes. But at what price? All that bold talk of bottoming out is set against the stark CBI surveys. The Tories are restless after half a decade of retooling, will they crumble again.

The Tory nightmare is that the appeal of a new force in politics, assuming it has by then fleshed out policies along the lines of Dr Owen's

## In dissident Conservative circles there is talk of a cauldron of discontent

new book, might indeed turn out to be as "unstoppable" as Mr David Steel predicts. If that possibility loomed then Tories might make what they call personal changes—meaning dumping Mrs Thatcher. Fanciful stuff, but it was striking to encounter such talk in this week of Labour's travails.

The left, of course, may intend to do the same to Mr Foot. It was actually striking to hear, on the eve of the Wembley conference, left wingers expressing public shame at Mr Foot's attempts to compromise. How will they now react to his determination to reverse their precious conference decision?

More questions are indeed posed by this week's extraordinary sequence of events than there are answers. Why did the Gang of Four have to bring forth their mouse of a Council for Social Democracy? Could not public expectations of a

breakaway have been satisfied just as well with a statement that dispositions were being made for a new party.

Why does Mrs Williams not resign from the National Executive Committee the way Mr Rodgers resigned from the shadow cabinet? If Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn had not stymied himself with his own eagerness to impale his opponents on his loyalty pledge he could have gained far greater understanding for his legitimate challenge to Mrs Williams to say where she stood.

Her answer, as it stood last Wednesday, was, that she had not absolutely made up her mind. Further, she has to consult the union that nominated her for election to the NEC.

How long that will take is unclear. But it can be taken as read that the "miracle" she spoke of to keep her in the party has not occurred. The party's MPs are not going to fight to recapture their sole right to elect their leader—and so she is definitely on her way out. Given that she has no other party position, when Mrs Williams leaves the NEC it will also mark her departure from the party.

Mr Benn also faces some questions. In accepting a seat in the shadow cabinet how can he agree to work collectively with colleagues, some of whom, he publicly and bitterly denounced at a pre-conference rally. "Enemies of parliamentary democracy" was his term for those who voted for the European Community, who built nuclear weapons without telling the party, and who favoured the House of Lords.

"Hostile to parliamentary democracy", was his description for those who capitulated to the bankers, and who granted nuclear bases to the United States in Britain. And those who capitulated to the International Monetary Fund "were denying the rights of the electors". Who remembers that Mr Benn and Mr Foot—next to mention the others—were members of the self-same Cabinet which did all those things?

No wonder that Mr Foot has lost his temper with him this week. But Mr Foot's trouble is that he seems out of his depth with much of his own party. Belatedly, he vows now to reverse at the next conference the electoral college decision he fully, if mournfully, urged last Saturday should be accepted by all and sundry as the will of the party. He talked of others fighting again, but not himself.

But there is a slightly bigger question. If it is all right for Mr Foot, and others, to seek now to change last week's vote, why did he not seek to change the Blackpool conference vote last October? It was wafer-thin, favouring only a wider franchise, not an electoral college as such. Why did Mr Callaghan, then Mr Foot, accept that as immutable? Had the fight back started there, this week's reparations might never have come about. But it is that sort of retreat, and perpetual promise to try getting halfway back that has been the despair of Labour supporters. And it is why the chances of the long-promised realignment have never looked better.



The bear from which Ernest Shepard made his original illustration

## Pooh, the most English teddy bear

It was customary for the Epilogue of the annual Latin play performed by the scholars of Westminster School to be a play about the current events. In 1897, the gold rush to the Yukon provided a target. "A gentleman gone to Klondyke" entered and is greeted as a polar bear: "Quis hic nunc adventus arctus polaris?" The polar bear, played by F. T. Barrington-Ward whose younger brother, also a scholar, became editor of *The Times*. In the audience each night or helping behind the scenes was another scholar, the 15-year-old A. A. Milne, whose own distinctive version of the polar bear struck it rich on a scale that most gold prospectors could only experience in their dreams.

Winnie was Christopher Robin's favourite polar bear at the London Zoo. Pooh was his toy swan. When his teddy bear, Edward, asked for a new and exciting name the solution was obvious. Winnie-the-Pooh has never looked back. His creator died 25 years ago today but Pooh is very much alive. His English publisher, Methuen, his literary agent, Curtis Brown, and his American publisher, Dutton, have marketed the golden bear with great energy and skill.

In the 1970s the British edition alone sold half a million copies annually. But it is one of the fascinations of Milne's stories that this most English of Teddies Bears—bought at Harrods and brought up in Chelsea—has a world-wide appeal. The Pooh books were an immediate success in the United States and have been translated into 23 languages including such improbable vehicles for teddy bear worship as Afrikaans, Japanese and Serbo-Croat.

The marketing is now a complex operation. There seems to be no end to the possibilities of Pooh spin-offs. Pooh cook books, Pooh birthday books, Pooh party books, even Pooh get well books. There are Pooh calendars to chart the year and Pooh eggs for Easter. No nursery is complete without a Pooh frieze, "a must for every child's bedroom wall". When the motion picture rights were sold to Walt Disney, the films were accompanied by what is called character merchandizing, which to parents may have seemed like character assassination, but which to the bear's beneficiaries looked like good business.

The secret of Pooh's appeal is intriguing. He is not a universal bear. With the exception of Japanese and Hebrew the modern languages into which he has been translated are those of countries—including the Soviet Union—whose history and culture have been shaped by Christianity. Pooh has failed to penetrate the Hindu and Moslem world. Is there an Arabic word for whimsical? But it appears to be relative affluence rather than religion that the Pooh countries have in common. They are countries where in-

fant mortality is a thing of the past and where the development of the idea of childhood as a separate, defined stage of life associated with innocence and happiness created the conditions for the successful invasion of Pooh and his friends.

If that is right, then Pooh has many other conquests in store as more and more countries are able to afford the luxury of childhood. On the other hand the very affluence that created childhood may in time destroy it: television in particular is reducing the period of childhood and there are other forces, too, that operate on children like factory farming techniques, forcing them through the Pooh years so fast that the innocent world of the Hundred Acre wood may soon be squeezed out altogether.

Pooh's survival qualities are however remarkable. They include the expertise of Milne's writing and the brilliant simplicity of Ernest Shepard's illustrations. It is often forgotten that Milne was a journalist who had edited *Granta* at Cambridge and worked for eight years on *Punch*. The light touch and unforced humour are the marks of a professional, as is the absence of any message.

It is the besetting sin of writers of children's books that they feel they must have something to say as though simply writing for children was beneath their dignity. Milne never fell into that trap. But he almost made the mistake of rejecting Shepard as an illustrator. "What on earth do you see in that man?" he asked E. V. Lucas, the chairman of Methuen. "He's perfectly hopeless." Milne was wrong as he later acknowledged. The author from Westminster and the artist from St Paul's complemented each other so perfectly that it is unthinkable that Pooh should appear in any other manifestation. Not even Lewis Carroll and John Tenniel were so dependent on one another. Together they created an ideal world, a cosy predicament of radishes, "where springs not fail" and where if Pooh can get his paws on it—there is always honey still for tea.

The original Pooh, up-market Harrodsian bear, now lives in New York. He sits in a brightly-lit glass case in the reception room of his American publishers and is an object of pilgrimage for children from all over the United States. He comes back to England from time to time, travelling in the VIP lounge in Kennedy and Heathrow airports. He is a celebrity. There is every hope that he will continue to be. His latest translation has been, appropriately, into Latin. Quis hic nunc adventus arctus polaris? Well, not exactly Winnie-the-Pooh is Edwardus Ursus and his gold rush goes on and on.

John Rae  
The author is Head Master of Westminster School.



Elephants on parade in Delhi.

back again today, like the tide. It will be extraordinary: it is 33 years to the day since Gandhi was borne down Rajpath to his cremation, mourned by a vast press of people, and Richard Attenborough is recreating the spectacle for his risk film with a crowd of three million and half Wembleys.

Trevor Fishlock

## Sportsview

# The hunter chase controversy rages on

The hunter-chase season opens on February 2, with a controversy which reached a climax on the last day of May, 1980, and still rages fiercely.

At Stratford on that day Barry Brazier's Rolls Rambler, professionally trained by Fred Winter, won the Horse and Hound Cup, having already run away with hunt racing's two other most coveted prizes, the Hail Whisky Hunters' Steeplechase at Liverpool and the Christmas Foxhunters' Challenge Cup at Cheltenham.

Rolls Rambler, which had won hurdle races and steeplechases when trained by Arthur Stephenson, missed the 1979 season, but had also taken the Horse and Hound Cup in 1978, though only by a neck from the little Welsh hunter Devil's Walk. Winter's stable also houses Remigio, unbeaten in six hunter-chases in 1979 and winner of two more in 1980, and Mr Brazier's other hunter-chaser, Shannon Bridge, which won all four of his races last season and could well turn out to be as good as, if not better than, Rolls Rambler.

This season it seems that more licensed trainers than ever before have in their yards horses which have been qualified for these events, though it should not be forgotten that three of the best hunter-chasers of the post-war years, Merryman II, Baulking Green and Credit Call, were all professionally trained.

**A licensed trainer has staff and resources denied to a private owner which can improve a horse out of all recognition.**

Jim Mahon, chairman of the Point-to-Point Owners' Association, showed me letters from his members complaining bitterly that hunter-chasing had become "a farce" and that their hunters were being asked to take on professionally trained animals which, if the race were a handicap, would have to concede them three stones. "Surely this was never intended," wrote one owner.

The association has proposed that: (1) for a trial period one third of all hunter-chases should exclude horses trained by fully licensed trainers, unless such horses be their sole property; (2) the prestige races at Cheltenham and Liverpool should exclude winners under National Hunt rules, other than hunter-chases; (3) Clerks of courses should be encouraged to stage more novice-chases, so as to give maidens the sort of experience current seasoners have before taking on the top horses.

Mr Mahon said that the clerks of the course at two race courses where the same firm is sponsoring a hunter-chase have framed conditions whereby these races should be restricted to horses which have not won a steeplechase, except one confined to certified hunters, but have run in a point-to-point since 1979.

Mr Mahon believes that a professional trainer can improve a horse by at least a stone. This view is strongly contested by Mr Brazier, his amateur jockey, Oliver Sherwood, and by Winter, who all feel that the debate so far has been extremely one-sided and that their

arguments have never been publicly expounded.

Mr Brazier pointed out that potential hunter-chasers have to "go hunting" between November and February and that they are not allowed to enter licensed trainers' stable until January, by which time most of the work of getting them fit for racing has already been done.

Not is it only in the preparation of their horses that private owners have excelled. The form book shows that permit holders have also done well against the professionals on the racecourse, even when competing for the most valuable National Hunt prizes. For instance, Royal Toss ran second in the Cheltenham Gold Cup when owned and trained by Tim Handel, and Mr R. Tweedie's great foxhunter, Freddie, twice finished second in the Grand National.

Mr Mahon, however, still maintains that a licensed trainer has staff and resources denied to the private owner which can improve a horse out of all recognition. "He knows when to gallop the horse and, even more important, when not to. He knows exactly how to feed him. If the horse has problems jumping regulation fences, there's nothing to stop the trainer putting up his retained professional jockey to school him over the practice fences and straighten him out."

Mr Brazier said he would rather win one of the top hunter-chases than even the Gold Cup. Every time one of his horses runs in a hunter-chase he meets a host of friends in the paddock before the race and over a drink afterwards. This would not apply to other National Hunt races.

He cannot see what difference it would make if he had his horses trained in a livery stable, many of which are run on highly professional lines and may house as many as 20 or more horses qualified for hunt racing. He would still be paying a monthly cheque, though not quite such a large one as a livery stable. "The only difference would be that my horses would then be eligible to run in point-to-points," he added. "What an outcry there would be if Rolls Rambler or Shannon Bridge turned out for the open race at the Bicester Hunt point-to-point."

Mr Brazier noted that the former-steeplechaser, Nostradamus, who finished six lengths in front of Shannon Bridge when they were second and third in a handicap steeplechase at Kempton in March 1979, is to be trained for hunt racing by his owner John Sumner, a Steward of the Jockey Club, by Mr Sumner's son-in-law Ian McKie. Nostradamus will thus be qualified to run in point-to-points as well as hunter-chases. McKie shared the point-to-point leading rider title with David Turner last year. There will be no lack of expertise in his stable, in which there are at least eight horses qualified for hunt racing.

Oddly enough, the point-to-point owners' association, generally regarded as the champion of the amateur and the private owner, has itself been accused of professionalism. The standards of most sports, amateur and professional, are constantly rising, and hunt racing is no exception. Sponsorship, regional contests and prizes for the best turned-out horses have all played their part in raising standards, but dedication, hard work and determination to succeed have sometimes been misconstrued as professionalism.

Ian Reid



Al Jolson and May McAvoy in the original version of *The Jazz Singer*.

## How Jolson nearly missed out

Whatever the public reaction to the new version of *The Jazz Singer* may be it cannot possibly have the impact of the original made 54 years ago. The new film is better photographed and is undoubtedly superior to an earlier remake, starring Danny Thomas, in 1953.

Nobody would dare suggest that Warner Oland, who played the stern synagogue cantor in the 1927 film, (and went on to international fame as Charlie Chan), was a better actor than Sir Laurence Olivier, who has the role today. And, singing apart, Neil Diamond's acting foray into the title role of the man who chooses the stage instead of following his father into the synagogue is better than that of Al Jolson. But nothing will change the fact that it will always be Jolson who will be synonymous with the part, and that it will always be the 1927 film that will feature in the history books.

It is not true, as many believe, that this was the world's first sound picture. But it was the picture which, single-handed, killed the silent film industry stone dead.

Without Jolson's magnetic singing of "Mammy" and a number of other ear-jerkers it might have been a mere technical curiosity which for another generation or more no one would have bothered to follow up.

Apart from the musical numbers, the film was going to be like any other—silent and with subtitles. Nobody thought there was any point in making it anything else—except Jolson.

He was before the cameras, ready to go into one of his best-known songs, "Toot Toot Tootsie", with the recording apparatus switched on. But Jolson could never be confined to anything that anyone else had suggested.

He never began a song simply with a verse following musical introduction; never satisfied himself with a chorus exactly the way the lyricist had wrote it; never, in fact, sang the same song the same way from one performance to the next.

This time, after the pick-up had begun recording the disc (the film went into the cinemas with sound on synchronized 17 1/2 inch discs revolving at 33 1/3 revolutions per minute) Jolson

turned to the orchestra leader, Lou Silvera, and said: "Wait a minute, wait a minute. You ain't heard nothin' yet. You wanna hear 'Toot Toot Tootsie'?" All right, hold on. Lou, listen, you play 'Toot Toot Tootsie'. Three choruses, you understand, and in the third chorus I whistle. Now give it to 'em hard and heavy. Go right ahead."

They were the first words spoken in talking pictures and Sam Warner, head of Warner Brothers (who was to die of a heart attack the day after the film's premiere), was present enough to realize the likely effect. He immediately ordered a new scene to be written featuring dialogue between Jolson and his aged mother (played by Eugene Besserer); and the rest, as they say, was history.

Jolson was not the original choice for the role. Warner, who had been experimenting with short musical features for years, wanted George Jessel to repeat the part he was currently playing successfully on Broadway.

But Jessel wanted more money than the studio said it could afford. Warner were on the verge of bankruptcy and had decided to make *The Jazz Singer* as a "talkie" merely as a last resort. Jessel saw no reason to put his career at stake just because Warner were in trouble. He also expected the studio to make a better offer and went off to play golf on the day that Jolson, his then close friend, was secretly negotiating.

"No wonder," Jessel told me once, "Jolson signed behind my back." Jolson in fact made the first deal giving a performer a share of a film's profits; had he never done another thing he could have lived off the proceeds of *The Jazz Singer* for the rest of his life.

Jolson died in 1950 after a comeback of two biographical films for which he recorded the soundtrack. *The Jolson Story* and *Jolson Sings Again*. But it was *The Jazz Singer* that made him part of history.

Michael Freedland

## Letter from Delhi

# Not for Gandhi, this parade

Curiously enough, all the pageantry and oompah of Republic Day parade, bobbing vermilion lancers, deadly glittering Gurkhas, Sikhs with marching bands and missiles with pleasing nursery colour warheads, reminded Indians that they still have to make up their minds about the old peacemonger, Gandhi.

He, of course, would have hated this display of martial might, and that is one reason why there is no statue of him at the end of Rajpath, Delhi's broad main boulevard, drawn for ceremonial and effect with a sweep of Edwin Lutyens' hand.

Just beyond India Gate, a pink Arc de Triomphe, there is an elegant stone pavilion topped by a dome. George V stood in it until 15 years ago, but he was extracted by the authorities after some affronted patriots chipped his nose.

It was always thought that the cavity would be filled by a statue of Gandhi. But, apart from anything else, many of

the Mahatma's followers feel that a statue of him cannot occupy the cupola because the vermilion lancers, deadly glittering Gurkhas, Sikhs with marching bands and missiles with pleasing nursery colour warheads, reminded Indians that they still have to make up their minds about the old peacemonger, Gandhi.

Gandhi did not even like the Indian flag. He wanted it to carry his spinning wheel symbol of Republic struggle. But he was overruled and the tricolour was superimposed with the 24 spoke wheel of the Emperor Ashoka, a symbol of authority and power. Gandhi said he would never salute it.

Such views made him seem cranky and anachronistic, an embarrassment to assertive younger people. Some 33 years after his assassination he is all but unknown among the mass of young Indians. Gandhism, which fuelled a great movement, is not much more than a totem. Many Indians still do not know how to cope with his memory, which is one reason why Richard Attenborough's *Gandhi*, now being filmed, is so controversial: it pricks the Indian conscience.

Republic Day is an occasion for such thoughts. It is a calendar turning point and the newspapers like to run melancholic articles about the state of the republic. This year the breakfast reading matched the morning's obsidian skies.

As the sky brightened, Delhi turned out in force, driving fast and badly as usual, to see the kind of parade that elsewhere would suit a coronation.

The parade started with proper dash. Trotting cavalrymen offered jingling salute to the President of the Republic, who seemed rather gnomish on a plush throne too large for him, and they were followed by perfectly matched sets of marching Madrasis, Grenadiers, Rajputs, Sikhs, Assamese and Dogras, in scarlet, marigold and grey cock-comb headdress.

Inevitable military machismo followed, a tedious series of tanks, armoured personnel carriers, missiles and rocket launchers, intruding like unwelcome guests. Tanks and personnel carriers are very low

on style and splendour. The sullen ranks growled along, filling the air with filthy fumes, and dipped their guns in salute to the guests of honour, the President of Mexico, who was, as a considerable oil producer, to talk about India's oil shortage.

After the somewhat indecent exposure of the might of the world's third largest army, the bands, bagpipes and elephants in scarlet overcoats restored the pageantry, aided by more clockwork marching, carnival floats and dances by lissom jewelled girls in brilliant costumes.

The crowd was warned not to eat during the parade in case food attracted kites which might endanger jets flying low during the flypast. Kites are so dangerous that the Government has a special force to deal with them. The crowd was warned not to eat during the parade in case food attracted kites which might endanger jets flying low during the flypast. Kites are so dangerous that the Government has a special force to deal with them.

The bagpipes at last sighed to a stop and the elephants waddled off and the multitude ebbed away. But it is washing





New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

## VOICES OF THE ALLIANCE

The Reagan Administration has opened with a verbal barrage against the Soviet Union. The rhetoric of the presidential campaign rang through the first press conferences given in office by the President and his Secretary of State. They accused the Soviet leadership of consciously fostering international terrorism, of promoting world revolution, of reserving the right to commit any crime, to lie, to cheat, in furtherance of their cause. So far, Mr Reagan added, détente has been a one-way street that the Soviet Union has used to pursue its own aims. The scales which fell from Mr Carter's eyes only after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan do not occlude the new President's public vision. He wants the world to know that there is now a tough guy in the White House.

On the same night Mrs Thatcher was speaking at the Pilgrims' dinner in London, one of the main annual celebrations of the Anglo-American bond. What she said, in more moderate language, agreed with Mr Reagan's assessment of the dangers of Soviet expansionism, although she based herself not on the attribution of malevolent intentions but on the fact of the growth of Soviet military power in both intensity and range. Mr Reagan she said had understood the challenge: we in Europe must also show that we understand it.

Mrs Thatcher made a most welcome reaffirmation of the fundamental importance of the Atlantic partnership for the security, liberty and prosperity of the free world. And she said two related things that needed saying: that Europe's interest in the confidence and strength of the United States is such that setbacks for them are setbacks for us. When the Americans face difficulties we need to say more clearly "We are with you"; and that cooperation

between the European powers and the United States in relation to matters outside Europe ought to be developed.

As a good Europeanist and a good Atlanticist Mrs Thatcher naturally denied any incompatibility between those two virtues. A stronger, more self-confident EEC pursuing more coherent policies, far from threatening Atlantic links, would reinforce them—the two pillars doctrine in its purest form. That is an entirely possible consequence of greater European integration; it is certainly a desirable consequence; but it is not a necessary consequence. All depends on what the policies are on which the European states unite, and whether they are the same policies as commend themselves to the United States.

This immediate post-inauguration period in Euro-American relations illustrates the point. Two days before Mr Reagan's description of détente as a one-way street President Giscard d'Estaing was musing on the television before his electorate. Some said détente was a fraud, though he would not go so far as that. "The word we should have in mind is the stabilisation of East-West relations." And stabilisation must go hand-in-hand with restraint on both sides—restraint such as the French had shown over Poland, such as the Polish workers should show by not trying to cast off from the Russo-socialist system, and such as (amazing claim) the Russians had shown towards post-invasion Afghanistan as a result of President Giscard's meeting with Mr Brezhnev in Warsaw.

Yesterday in the Bundestag Chancellor Schmidt was able to give a general welcome to the Reagan Administration's first foreign policy statements, but only by alluding to positive propositions contained in them and ignoring the rest. He made it clear that he would continue to argue the case for preserving

East-West détente. "We shall certainly stress the aspect of cooperation with the states of eastern Europe," including cooperation in the field of arms control.

These various statements by leaders of the Atlantic alliance have not reached the stage of contradiction, but they come in noticeably different tones of voice. Only Mrs Thatcher approximates on occasions to the tones of Reaganism, while Mr Reagan is not yet speaking the language of the alliance.

Both the French and the German Governments are in a mood to be stiffer towards the Soviet Union than they were in the aftermath of Afghanistan, but neither wishes to be party to a naked drive for military superiority or to see the reciprocal benefits of détente cast aside. The facts of geography alone give the continental European powers a perception of the Soviet block, the nature of the threat it poses and the means of dealing with it, which differs from that which is natural to continental America. Mr Reagan may give the alliance muscle but he will not give it the leadership it stands so much in need of unless he is responsive to those differences.

There is an immediate matter which may test the coherence of the alliance. The escalating demands of the free trade unions in Poland threaten the basis of the socialist state system. As the possibility of a stable compromise between party and workers diminishes, the possibility of suppression with the aid of Soviet forces enlarges. In that case no steady and coherent response by the Atlantic allies could be forged in the fire of Mr Reagan's campaign rhetoric. Mrs Thatcher on Thursday and Herr Schmidt yesterday spoke of the alliance's need for internal coordination of policy and decision. That should be the first priority on both sides of the Atlantic.

## NOT WITHOUT CONSENT

According to the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee, Parliament, faced with a request from the Canadian Government to enact a new constitution for Canada and terminate Britain's guardianship over it, has but two options. It can either enact it exactly as presented by Ottawa and ignore any objections from any other Canadian Governments or authorities, or it can reject it totally if politely as a request not made in the proper form. The committee firmly rejects any idea of Westminster amending it before "parliamentarising" it, on the grounds that such action would be interference in the affairs of Canada which would be constitutionally improper in terms of the conventions ruling the relationship between Westminster and "Canada as a federally structured whole".

The reasons given by the committee for ruling out this third alternative should be studied by any MP speaking on the Bill in Westminster. Westminster cannot legislate for Canada, and as the committee shows "a partial package is a new package". Those who talk in terms of sending back Canada's constitution without the proposed bill of rights, or of repatriating the British North America Acts as they now stand on the British statute book must think again. To do any such thing would be a gross breach of the constitutional conventions ruling the relations between Britain and Canada, and a dereliction of the actual responsibilities undertaken by Britain at the joint and unanimous request of the Federal and Provincial Governments of Canada at the time of the passage of the Statute of Westminster.

The committee has wisely stuck to the definition of what

those exact responsibilities are. No doubt there will be controversy over its findings based on an examination of the precedents going back to confederation in 1867. It comes down against the view that Westminster is a mere automaton vis-à-vis a request to amend the BNA Act from Ottawa. The very anxieties repeatedly expressed by Britain over the continuance of its residual but onerous and increasingly anomalous responsibilities under the Statute of Westminster indicate that Parliament was never intended by Canada itself to be a rubber stamp. The committee endorses Professor Keith's view that Westminster can only amend the BNA Act "in accordance with the wishes of the people of the dominion as a whole, not at either federal or provincial bidding".

This conclusion will delight the six—indeed probably eight—provinces who object to Mr Trudeau's proposals. For it argues that the British Parliament has to address itself primarily to the question whether the request from the Canadian Government is a proper request which can be acted upon, or an improper one which cannot. The committee's arguments lead rather fatefully to the conclusion that the sort of proposals now envisaged, and opposed by so many provinces, could not form the subject of a proper request. If the committee's arguments are accepted, it could not have been right, for example, for Mrs Thatcher to promise Mr Trudeau to get the legislation through the British Parliament—at least not without warning him that a proper measure of provincial agreement was essential to the decision.

The committee suggests that Britain, in assessing what is proper, is entitled to require

that the same degree of provincial agreement to Mr Trudeau's proposals must be secured as is required in those proposals for any future amendments to a new Canadian constitution in Canada. If Mr Trudeau has now only the backing of Mr Davis in Ontario and Mr Haxfield in New Brunswick, it is plain that this requirement is not fulfilled.

The committee also thinks that the objections to the proposed bill lodged in the Manitoba and other appeal courts cannot be ignored by Westminster—in short that Britain itself is not sovereign to make at Ottawa's behest a totally new law for Canada which Canadian courts can thereafter only interpret and not contest.

Select committees are not courts of appeal. The report of the Canadian parliamentary committee on the Bill is still awaited, and at the third reading which follows the propriety of the Canadian Government's request, as well as Britain's reciprocal obligation to affirm its propriety, will certainly be examined in the light of the British committee's report. Mr Trudeau may not modify his plans because a British body criticizes his approach. But he may respond to growing pressure in Canada. Not only has he the full support of only two provinces, but Canadian public opinion, as it has become informed, has swung against patriation in the form so many provinces oppose. Mr Trudeau is seen as trying unilaterally to force his will on Canada by invoking a captive sovereignty at Westminster. Such a sovereignty is dubious and, if he persists, the wrecking amendments which the provinces may sponsor in the British Houses of Parliament may drag Britain disastrously into Canada's internal affairs.

## DOWNFALL OF SEÑOR SUÁREZ

The resignation of Señor Suárez, the Spanish Prime Minister, is at once a test for Spanish democracy and a reminder of how far the country has come in the five years or so since the death of General Franco. The resignation of a Prime Minister after criticism from within his own party is, after all, nothing very unusual in a democracy. There have already been moves within the government party, the Democratic Centre Union (UCD), to nominate Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo as Señor Suárez's successor; and though there are still a number of hurdles to be overcome, there is every indication that normal democratic processes are being followed. What is remarkable is not that Señor Suárez should have felt compelled to resign, but that he should be doing so in a political climate which is so different from those of the long years under Franco.

Whatever his failings in the last year or two, much of the credit for this smooth transition to democracy must go to Señor Suárez—as well as to King Juan Carlos, who first appointed him Prime Minister in 1976. At the time the selection of Señor Suárez, a former head of the Movimiento, the only political organization permitted by Franco, seemed extraordinarily

unpromising. But he proved to have a commitment to democracy and, backed by the King, reduced the political role of the armed forces, called genuine elections, and introduced a democratic constitution. The process is still not quite complete, as is shown by the persecution of journalists under archaic legislation. But Spain today has reentered the mainstream of European life and that is something that would have seemed barely conceivable five years ago.

The country also has its difficulties, and they have been the downfall of Señor Suárez. The problem of relations between Madrid and the regions, one that has exercised Spanish governments for many years, is exemplified by the continuation of Basque terrorism. Spanish society is deeply divided by issues such as divorce. The economy has been hit harder than most by the rise in oil prices and the world recession, with the result that there are now about one and a half million people unemployed, or about 12 per cent of the workforce. Some of these difficulties are the direct result of the policies of the Franco regime—Basque terrorism, for instance. But on the right, in particular, there is a tendency to look back nostalgically to the days of the dictator-

ship, when there was less discipline—and when the international economic climate was an easier one.

Señor Suárez's strength lay in his ability to conciliate widely different interests. He succeeded, for instance, in putting together the UCD out of a very varied collection of Christian Democrats, Social Democrats, liberals, monarchists and others. By giving something to one group, and then something else to another, he was able to hold them together. But this was often done at the expense of consistent policies—on regional devolution, for instance, where he suddenly reversed government policy on granting autonomy to Andalusia and then was forced to return to something like the original policy.

He has had to resign because of dissatisfaction on the right wing of his party with his policies but also, a more important reason, because he looked likely to lose the next election. It is possible that some of the military were not unhappy to see him go; but the main pressure came from within his own party, for understandable electoral reasons. The important thing is that his successor should be able to build on what Señor Suárez began, and that his achievement in bringing democracy to Spain should not be undone.

## Is the hostages deal binding?

From Mr Alec Kassam  
Sir, Professor Brittain's assertion, (January 29) that "it is a principle of international law that agreements extracted under duress are void" is wrong, and dangerously wrong.

International law does, and must, recognize the existence of force as an element in international relations; otherwise there could be no international law of war; and any such principle as that advanced by Professor Brittain would render null and void all treaties of peace except those terminating wars ending in a draw. But treaties of peace between victors and vanquished have been drawn up, and their terms written out, throughout the era of recorded history, certainly since the period described by Herodotus and probably much longer. They cannot all have been null and void. I think the legal position is as follows.

The initial forcible invasion of the American Embassy in Tehran and the capture of the American citizens in it was a hostile act which the United States could rightly have treated as a *casus belli*, but they did not. The continued detention of the American captives was a continuing hostile act, which rendered lawful the American invasion of Iranian territory last spring in an attempt to secure their release.

Following the American withdrawal from that attempt the United States were entitled to reply to the Iranian hostility by either friendly means, for example negotiation, or aggressive means, say, delivery of an ultimatum. They opted for the former course, and negotiations were successfully conducted. The terms so reached are perfectly lawful and cannot now be declared void merely on the ground that the United States were not obliged to negotiate in the face of force. The fact is that they did.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
ALEX KASSAM,  
31 West Heath Drive, NW11,  
January 29.

## Computer security

From Mr P. J. Godfrey  
Sir, As someone closely involved with computer systems, I am always amused to read reports such as yours of January 29 ("Vision of computer-enforced world") concerning computer security. I would like to raise two points.

First, magnetic bands do not exist. *Bande magnétique* is the French for magnetic tape. If your Correspondent had listened himself to Mr Parker, who speaks passable English for an American, he would have known this. The healthy cynicism is called for when reviewing facts presented by someone who makes his living from computer crime (albeit talking about it rather than taking part). If there is any bank in the world which could be put out of business by having one computer centre and all the tapes therein destroyed I would be surprised. Any computer installation of any size at all protects itself against such simple disasters.

Second, there are risks, and these should not be underestimated, but data processing professionals spend a lot of time ensuring their systems are adequately protected. Yours faithfully,  
PETER J. GODFREY,  
Avenue des Arts 33,  
1040 Brussels, Belgium,  
January 29.

## Trees for energy

From Mr John Hunter  
Sir, I am surprised that Dr Thomas (January 24) considers that you cannot grow timber trees in a hedgerow which remains good and stockproof as this was the traditional practice in many parts of England and I have seen it depicted in Flemish miniatures c 1600. The trees were widely spaced enough to enable light to reach both the hedge and the crops. Trimming off overhanging boughs from the reach of combine harvesters also helps.

In this arable part of the kingdom, where few hedges need to be stockproof, it is good and economic practice to coppice them every 10-12 years or so. This involves cutting right down to the base, whence the hedge springs up rapidly, bushy and inviting to the benefit of wildlife, game and the landscape. When coppicing is done, good stems of oak, ash and maple can be left to grow up to form the hedgerow trees of the future.

From observation this winter more and more farmers are following this practice, mindful perhaps of a future fuel source for their wood-burning stoves when dead elms have all been cut down; mindful also of the benefits of the appearance of the countryside.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN HUNTER,  
Green Farm,  
Little Sampford,  
Saffron Walden, Essex,  
January 27.

## Stained reputation

From Mr Geoffrey Roome  
Sir, The Chancellor of Chichester Cathedral (January 19) refers to seventeenth-century libels in altarpieces.

Zoffany continued the tradition a hundred years later. He too painted a "Last Supper" for the new St John's Church in Calcutta, and the Iscariot scowling at the congregation was widely held to portray a nabob of the time.

On his return to England he painted an altarpiece for Kew, again almost certainly portraying a local worthy in the guise of Iscariot: it was rejected, and came to roost at St George's Church, Brentford.

For Chiswick Zoffany painted an altarpiece that included a boy pointing to the Seventh Commandment. This shall not commit adultery. Edwardian consciences in Chiswick consigned this bland prompting to Christie's.

Yours faithfully,  
GEOFFREY ROOME,  
East Hall,  
Boughton Moorhouse,  
Maidstone, Kent.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Safeguarding historic buildings

From Dr A. J. Taylor, FBA

Sir, Mr Cook's account (January 24) of the Secretary of State for the Environment's callous disregard of his Inspector's recommendation in favour of preserving Kelsall Lodge, Tisbury, Wiltshire, is unfortunately symptomatic of an even more disturbing situation.

Mr Heseltine is also directly responsible under the Ancient Monuments Acts for the care, maintenance and display to the public of many of the outstanding treasures of this country's architectural heritage. Yet how is that responsibility being discharged today? The answer can be given under three heads, viz:

1. *Closures.* To take only a few examples, monuments of the distinction of Furness Abbey and St Augustine's, Canterbury, or of the castles of Northampton and Warkworth and Castle Rising, are at present closed to the public or left unguarded, ostensibly for lack of custodians, whose posts, once they have been vacated through death or retirement, are left unfilled. This is because monument custodians rank as civil servants, and there is accordingly a total freeze on their recruitment. Yet against a background of over two million unemployed the number of men needed is despicable. Meanwhile the period garden at Kirby Hall has become a waste, the church and cloister of Bayham Abbey a wilderness.

2. *Running down of accumulated experience.* The vitality of the department's small direct labour force, whose specialist skills and devoted craftsmanship have been gradually built up over the last half-century, is being deliberately sapped, not by mismanagement, but by policy to restrict the use of direct labour on monuments in national care to the minimum. Together with the application of similar attitudes and policies to the much smaller parallel professional and supervisory staff, this means that the ancient monuments service as a whole can no longer be said to be in good heart. Yet fundamentally it is this well-integrated accumulation of skill and "feel" for the work, both industrial and professional level, that has won for Britain a reputation second to none in the field of monument conservation and presentation, and

in time gone, by caused our own National Trust to place a number of the ruined monuments in its ownership under the guardianship of the Ministry of Works.

As has been authoritatively pointed out elsewhere, such a discarding of experience presages grievous losses and misjudgments and puts the future of our historic monuments in jeopardy.

3. *Abandonment of trust.* It is well known that the Department of the Environment is seeking to divest itself of certain prime monuments. One, the matchless ruin of Fontenay Abbey, together with its related outlying and superb eighteenth-century landscaped setting, has a near competitor amongst Cistercian remains even in a European context. Another, the site of the Battle of Hastings, and within it, extensive portions of the abbey founded by the Conqueror on the very ground where his victory was clinched, lies so near to the heart of English national history as any monument well could.

At different dates in the by no means distant past both these famous places have come into national care (Battle indeed purchased by the Government with generous American help), to be held in perpetuity, by the nation for the nation, under the provisions of the relevant Acts of Parliament. Not surprisingly, the nation has been expressed that there is something less than respectable in proposing or even considering the transfer of such exceptionally noteworthy monuments to other, and less experienced, hands.

Nor will it escape notice that the off-loading of Battle, whether in whole or in part, would be closely analogous to the listed building consent given for the demolition of Kelsall Lodge, Tisbury, Wiltshire, for, as may be seen from the twenty-fifth Report of the Ancient Monuments Board for England presented to Parliament, in pursuance of section 17 of the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953, on June 11, 1978, p.10, para 7, it would be directly contrary to the explicit recommendation of the minister's statutory advisers.

The heritage is indeed in danger. Yours faithfully,  
A. J. TAYLOR,  
Rose Cottage,  
Lincoln's Hill,  
Chiddingfold,  
Surrey,  
January 25.

### Employing the disabled

From Professor Peter Townsend

Sir, Much of your special supplement on disability (January 5) was sensitive, but in her article on employment Patricia Tisdall entirely misrepresents opinion among voluntary organizations and for people with disabilities about what she calls the "semi-compulsory" methods of the quota and register system.

First, the quota. The Manpower Services Commission is believed to be recommending to the Government the abandonment of the quota of 3 per cent disabled employees in favour of a more "persuasive" policy towards employers. If this is true it will contradict all the advice received by the MSC from all voluntary organizations following the publication of its consultative document. I know of no organization which has recommended that the quota scheme be scrapped. On the contrary, the commission was flooded with representations that the scheme should be reinforced and given teeth.

Second, the disabled persons' register. Most of the voluntary organizations concerned with disability believe that registration has fallen because people with disabilities see that there are no advantages in so doing. But if registration were to be seen to be connected with

vigorous enforcement of the quota, together with generous government subsidies for adaptation of premises and machinery, and training and registration were also linked with local authority registers of the handicapped, with stronger endeavours to aids and adaptations, people with disabilities would take an entirely different attitude. They would feel that society cared and that the Government was prepared to do something about their integration not only in employment but within ordinary membership of community groups and services.

Patricia Tisdall made no mention of schemes in other countries to combine quota schemes with both penalties for non-fulfilment and subsidies and other government help for employers with generous policies. In recent weeks the Government has already announced the reduction in number of employment advisory committees. There have also been persistent rumours of the closure of many rehabilitation centres as well as of the winding up of the quota scheme. Let us at least be clear that the voluntary organizations and disabled people want no part of this disastrous strategy.

Yours sincerely,  
PETER TOWNSEND, Chairman,  
Disability Alliance,  
1 Cambridge Terrace, NW1.

### Artists' adviser

From Mr Jack Black and others

Sir, We view with dismay the recent unexpected and unexplained decision of the Arts Council of Great Britain to withdraw grant-aid in 1981-82 from a unique and dynamic body, Artlaw Services.

Artlaw is a non-profit distributing company, limited by guarantee. It provides information, advice and education on art-related legal matters, and encouragement to artists, designers, composers and others with existing or imminent problems who may be ill-equipped to tackle them within, generally, "garret" budgets.

Time using Artlaw—increasingly over its first two years and well in excess of 2,000—have been enabled to survive as artists amid the complexities of the law, from contract and copyright to landlord and tenant law. The benefits to the public, as well as to artists individually, has been patent if immeasurable.

Artlaw's work has been widely praised by regional arts associations and there has never been a word of criticism from the Arts Council itself, which has given moral and financial support since Artlaw's inception. It deserves unarguably to survive this "unkindest cut of all". But it will need generous sponsors, to replace the Arts Council subsidy of a modest £10,000 in 1980.

### A bridge too few

From Brigadier Sir John Smyth, VC

Sir, With regard to your obituary on Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Hutton (January 20), I would like to correct one error of fact which would otherwise throw a considerable stigma on the staff of my 17th Indian Division, and particularly on Brigadier Hugh Jones (now dead), who actually (with my permission) blew the Sitang Bridge.

The idea that we thought that most of my troops had crossed the bridge to the western bank is pure myth. We knew perfectly well what the situation was. During the retreat of my heavily outnumbered division it was obvious that at some point we should have to cross the Sitang River, with only one bridge and one road leading up to it through thick jungle. General Hutton had wisely prepared the bridge for demolition with his Army sappers.

The only question was when we should start our withdrawal from

the Bilin River over the 40 miles to Sitang in order to get there without undue interference from the Japanese. When eventually I was permitted to withdraw, the Japanese had got there first with a whole division. We had only managed to get a third of the division over the bridge when Brigadier Hugh Jones told me that he was under severe pressure from the Japanese and could only hold the bridge for another hour. He therefore had to blow it immediately or allow the Japanese to march straight on to Rangoon.

There was only one answer to that problem and that was to blow the bridge at once, which was done by the Indian sappers under heavy fire. The Japanese immediately drew off and I was able to get some 3,000 men over the Sitang by raft or by swimming.

Yours etc.,  
JACKIE SMYTH,  
807 Nelson House,  
Dolphin Square, SW1.

## The pound in your pocket

From Mr D. F. T. Bowie

Sir, The Government plans to abolish the £1 note and replace it with a coin.

The possible effect on charities may be serious. They receive one or two pound notes through the post in response to an appeal. This society received nearly £2,000 in this way over the Christmas period alone. The donors are not rich, and it is unlikely that they will send us a £5 note in the future when the £1 coin becomes common currency.

Yours faithfully,  
DONALD BOWIE,  
Church of England Children's Society,  
Old Town Hall,  
Kennington Road, SE11,  
January 29.

From Mr D. J. Foster  
Sir, Now that inflation has so debased the coinage of the £1 that one is required to strike a 21 piece, might it be suggested that the opportunity not be lost of returning the figure of Britannia to her rightful place?

She has served in the past, and should serve again in the future, to remind those who carry her in purses and pockets, pass her across counters, and drop her into machines, that Britain is still great.

The portrait of a standing Britannia designed by de Saules for use on the coinage in 1901 has always been considered the most beautiful and dignified ever lived, and would be admirably suitable for this our most important new coin.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID FOSTER,  
19 Campsey Gardens, NW6,  
January 27.

From Mr J. B. Harris  
Sir, Let us have St George, in the style of Adrian Jones's cavalry memorial, to symbolize the hoped-for defeat of the dragon inflation by the time the new £1 coin is issued.

I am,  
Yours faithfully,  
JOHN B. HARRIS,  
31 Princedale Road,  
Holland Park, W11,  
January 29.

### Basin of abortion law

From Miss Elspeth Rhys-Williams

Sir, Dame Josephine Barnes, in her article on January 21, referred to the fact that my mother, the late Dame Juliet Rhys-Williams, was a member of the Birkbeck Interdepartmental Committee on Abortion which reported in 1939. Dame Josephine went on to say that this report "laid the foundation for the 1967 Abortion Act". In this she is under a misapprehension.

The report recommended that the law should make it "unmistakably clear" that a doctor could procure the abortion of a pregnant woman if convinced on the grounds of the pregnancy is likely to endanger her life or seriously to impair her health". It continued: "The induction of abortion is on ethical, social and medical grounds essentially an undesirable operation, justifiable only in exceptional circumstances, and the committee is strongly opposed to any broad relaxation of the law designed to make social, economic and personal reasons a justification for the operation."

The committee's opinion was that a sound approach to the problem of abortion (which in the 1930s was a genuine cause for concern) was to attempt by social and economic measures to relieve the financial difficulties associated with childbirth and parenthood.

These recommendations are poles apart from the 1967 Abortion Act, as it is currently interpreted. Dame Josephine Barnes has gone on record as saying that although 100,000 abortions a year are too many, "attempts to restrict the number are a mistake" (BMA News Review, November, 1979). In the same speech she expressed the opinion that "population control depends on expectations but is essential for the survival of our present standard of living".

Yours faithfully,  
ELSPETH RHYNS-WILLIAMS,  
47 Aylesford Street, SW1,  
January 23.

### Borrowed plumes

From the Reverend F. P. Coleman

Sir, It seems that Mr Philip Howard (January 22) has written that he has not moved with The Times. Commenting on the possible end of the Astor connexion (report, January 21) he refers to your staff as "the present generation of Black Friars", overlooking the fact that a year or two ago they fled their Priory, thereby severing a much older connexion and, into the bargain, robbing this parish of Printing House Square, somewhat after the manner of Rachel who stole her father's gods. Or do they slink back for inspiration to the Wardrobe and the Cockpit?

Yours faithfully,  
F. P. COLEMAN, Rector,  
St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe,  
St Andrew's House,  
Queen Victoria Street, EC4,  
January 25.

### Haig-riden

From Mr Hugh Sykes

Sir, Following your report on January 23 about alterations to the English language by the United States's new Secretary of State, may I convey to your readers a note a sentence he uttered at a press conference on the same day? I quote: "I would hope that in the meantime that the Soviets would do nothing to exacerbate the kind of mutual restraint that both sides should pursue."

I hope the Soviets context the nuance intention of that OK.

Yours faithfully,  
HUGH SYKES,  
21 Seymour Street, W1,  
January 29.















	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia S	2.22	2.04
Austria Sch	37.09	35.00
Belgium Fr	83.00	79.50
Canada S	2.92	2.84
Denmark Kr	16.00	15.30
Finland Mk	9.90	9.48
France Fr	11.90	11.40
Germany Dm	3.13	4.95
Greece Dr	122.00	115.00
Hongkong \$	12.95	12.35
Ireland Pt	1.38	1.33
Italy Lir	2496.00	2365.00
Japan Yen	513.00	497.00
Netherlands Gld	5.67	

# Will Want to 's fate



## PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Fixed interest

## The message for gilt investors

I have to confess that last year was something of a disappointment as far as the gilt-edged market went or, more aptly, failed to go.

Certainly the investor who was bold enough to increase the weighting of his portfolio in equity shares did very much better. In spite of the immense pressure on company profitability and liquidity, and in spite of the large number of cut dividends, the Financial Times All Share Index still managed a rise of 25 per cent over the 12 months.

By contrast, the FT Government Securities index, although more than 10 per cent up in mid-summer, finished the year a mere 5 per cent higher than where it started.

That hardly ranks as a disaster, however. Indeed, taking account of the 13-14 per cent interest returns available in higher coupon stocks for longish periods during the year, the overall return of some 18 per cent was not bad compared with straight cash-type investment.

Admittedly, investors who bought near the top of the market last year will have done less well than straight income terms in 1980 than had they left their money on deposit. But already that loss of income is starting to look rather less serious as short-term interest rates have sunk to new lows.

Bank deposit rates are already down from 15 to 11 per cent, though there are rather more attractive terms for larger or regular savers, while the basic building society share rate is now down to the gross equivalent of 13.2 per cent (9.25 per cent net).

The only notable exception in this field is the National Savings Bank Investment Account. Here a government, desperate to lay its hands on our savings, has not only held the rate offered at 15 per cent (payable gross), but also recently raised the limit on holdings from £50,000 to £200,000. More of that account.

Returning to the gilt-edged market why did it not per-

form as well as one might have hoped last year? Very simply, because the Government failed to get fully on top of public sector expenditure, because the pressure on corporate cash flow led to strong credit demand from the private sector.

In other words, for most of the year the Government was fighting a losing battle in trying to contain the monetary expansion and had no choice, at least in monetarist logic, but to keep interest rates high.

What now? Well, if you have put money into gilts over the last year, stay with it and be patient. If you hold no gilts, then seriously consider buying some, either directly or through one of the increasing number of unit trusts specializing in the gilt-edged and fixed interest markets.

The fact that you can still pick up stocks on yields of 13-14 per cent does, of course, carry a message. The first part of that message is that the Government is continuing to pay its bond cautiously by raising short-term interest rates at present levels.

The second part of that message is that the big institutional investors, too, are continuing to take a fairly cautious view of prospects. They have had their share of the past couple of years to be in any mood to take too much on trust these days.

For many City followers of the gilt-edged market, the promised land for the final quarter of 1981 would include an annual inflation rate of 8-10 per cent, a minimum lending rate of 9 or 10 per cent and long-term yields of about 11 per cent.

The inevitable fear is that it may not prove quite so simple. Will the Government really hold the line on public sector pay, and hence the public sector borrowing requirement? Will the expected boom-out of the recession ease the inflationary pressures, threatening to push

the inflation rate back into double figures by early 1982?

At this stage we simply do not know. The good sign at the moment is that even with the inflation rate falling nicely, the Government is unlikely to be tempted to prime the pumps in its March Budget in an attempt to accelerate the movement out of recession.

In short, we look set for a fairly tight Budget. The one lesson the Government must have learnt by now is that tax budgets are self-defeating; they destroy financial confidence.

On that view I would rather put money into gilts over the last year, stay with it and keep my fingers crossed that the Chancellor will deliver a responsible Budget, equally important, a credit Budget, and either at the time or soon after, a further cut in MLR.

It is, of course, important to remember that marketable fixed interest stocks can fall as well as rise, and that those who prefer to place their safety still have some attractive alternatives open to them.

As I have already said, the Government is making a great play in trying to squeeze money out of the personal sector where most of the "excess" liquidity from last year's account explosive money supply growth is now held. For that reason it will continue to make National Savings as tempting as it can.

If MLR is cut again soon, then the 15 per cent offered on the NSB Investment Account will probably be lowered too. But the rate is still likely to remain attractive relative to rates offered by banks or building societies. (Withdrawal is on one month's notice.)

Similarly, the present nineteenth issue of National Savings Certificates is a good lock-away, especially for the higher rate taxpayer. These certificates offer 10.33 per cent over four years net of all tax. The ceiling on holdings was up this month from £4,500 to £5,000.

John Whitmore

## HOFF of HEYBRIDGE HEATH



OUR JOINT BANK ACCOUNT STATEMENT...



BY ROSS

Bonds

## Switching gives plenty of choice

Single premium bonds offer an efficient tool for portfolio management. Not only do insurance companies offer a wide range of funds to which your money can be linked, but they also let you switch from one fund to another cheaply and for tax purposes efficiently.

Sadly, though, few investors make use of these switching opportunities, mainly because of lack of advice about what to do when.

The investment choices normally available for money invested in a single premium bond—the minimum is usually £500 or £1,000—include funds invested directly in property or equities or holding fixed interest securities. Some multi-linked funds also offer an international equity fund, mainly invested in American or Japanese, and for those who want a safe harbour for funds during stormy investment conditions life offices run cash funds, where the capital value of your investment is guaranteed not to go down.

Alternatively, you can invest in a managed fund, where your money is split between the property and equity funds

(sometimes, with a small holding in the international fund as well as the United Kingdom equity fund) and the fixed interest and cash funds.

But you do not have to stick to your original choice of fund, because insurance companies allow you to switch from one to another. You can therefore "take a view" on investment markets, leaving the everyday running of the portfolio and individual stock selection to the life office investment managers.

Remember, however, that while some offices allow you to hedge your bets and switch part of your portfolio, others take "an all or nothing" approach. So, to avoid this problem, take out a series of bonds rather than one large one. The advantages of switching within a bond fund are two-fold. First, it is reasonably cheap. Insurance companies usually charge only between 0.25 per cent and 1 per cent of the money switched. Secondly, your tax position remains unaltered, as capital gains tax does not rear its head.

Life offices report, however, that only a small number of

bondholders actually make use of these switching facilities, though they like to know that they can switch if they want to. Insurance companies themselves shy away from giving advice on when and where to switch, on the grounds that this could lead to liquidity problems as bondholders, acting on their advice, switch, say, from the property to the equity fund. They also argue that each bondholder's circumstances are different and what would suit one would not necessarily suit another.

This leaves those with no time or expertise to follow investment markets the choice of sticking to the life company's managed fund—with a spread on all three main markets—or enlisting the services of a growing field of investment advisers and insurance brokers, who offer a specific bond switching service.

The problem here is choosing one which you feel will serve you well. Comparative records of advisers are difficult to come by.

Planned Savings magazine has been monitoring the perfor-

mance of bond switching advisers—or at least those who are willing to stand up to the test—for the past couple of years, by measuring their performance in switching between funds run by one particular insurance company.

The results beg the question: is switching worthwhile? Last year professional advisers in most cases—nine out of 11—failed even to match the 22 per cent rise in "in house" managed funds, with results varying from an increase of only 5.3 per cent to a more than commendable 35.8 per cent.

Two advisers who outperformed the managed fund, Sage Investment Managers, with the 35.8 per cent rise, and Ingram Investment Services, with a 22.2 per cent rise, are notable for the lack of switching last year. Unlike other advisers they were not lured by the potential capital gains on gilts, but remained heavily invested in equities throughout the year.

During 1979 the advisers did better, with six out of the nine who took part beating the 7.9 per cent rise in the managed

fund, with returns varying from +4.6 per cent to a positive 26.1 per cent.

So is switching worthwhile? "Definitely," answers Michael Kelly, founder director of Sage Investment Consultants, which manages £5m for more than 100 clients a minimum investment of £15,000. "We can move money faster than the investment managers of an insurance company managed fund which is hindered by its size," he explained.

Ted Ingram, of Ingram Investment Services, which takes on a minimum of £10,000 for clients and charges between 0.5 and 1 per cent for the service (and has given the best overall result over the two-year period), argues that the performance of a company's managed fund is not necessarily the right yardstick. More important is that bonds offer a useful instrument for portfolio management through which investors have a chance of matching inflation and better returns than with other types of investments, such as building societies and banks.

Sylvia Morris

Round-up

## New fixed interest unit trust

This week saw the launch of a fixed interest unit trust from Henderson Unit Trust Management, designed to provide a high level of income.

The trust will invest in a wide selection of fixed interest securities, including debentures, corporation stocks and Government securities.

At first, the portfolio will be 95 per cent invested in debenture stocks, with the balance in cash.

The yield on the trust is 14 per cent gross (dividends will be paid quarterly), which compares favourably with the present yield of 11.68 on the group's gilt trust.

Minimum investment in the trust is 1,000 units (at 50p each for the next three weeks). Charges on the trust include an

initial 5 per cent and 0.75 per cent a year.

Abbey National Building Society is bringing out a new issue of its highly successful Stax-Plus bondshares today to replace the first issue launched last October.

The new issue is not quite so attractive in that it offers a guaranteed differential of 2.5 percentage points over the ordinary share rate—as present 9.25 per cent after basic rate tax (equivalent to 13.2 per cent gross)—for six years compared with the 3 point differential on the old issue. If you take your money out during the term, the interest will be reduced to the ordinary share rate.

The shares are available to anyone aged 60 or over with a minimum of £500 to invest. The maximum dividend is £5,000 compared with £3,000 on the first issue.

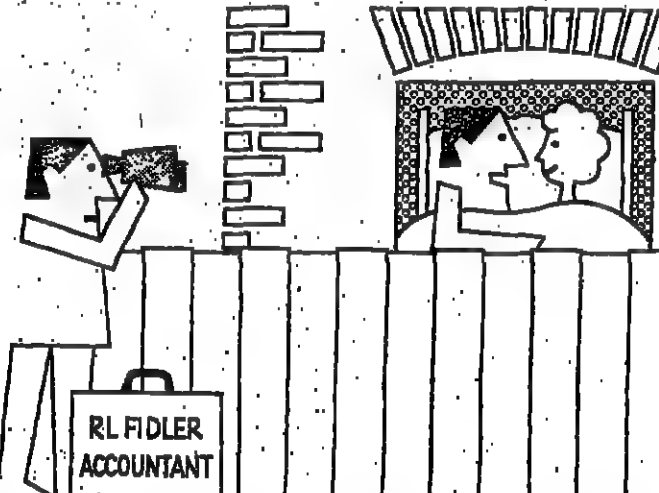
Save and Prosper has launched an index-linked Conversion Plan, a five-year term assurance contract which gives the policyholder the option of renewing the policy at the end of each five-year period until he reaches 60.

The sum assured can be increased in line with inflation on each renewal date without further medical check-ups and the policy can be converted to a whole of life or endowment contract at any time. The monthly cost for £50,000 of cover is £5.50 gross (£4.68 after tax relief) for those up to the age of 30.

A new investment trust launched in emergency stocks is being launched next week. The New Darien Oil Trust will invest in small quoted companies engaged in exploration and production of oil and gas, with at least three quarters of the portfolio in the United States, where it reckons that prices reflect proved reserves rather than speculative prospects of further finds.

Subscription lists for the 10,000,000 £1 shares, to be issued through Barclays Merchant Bank, open on Tuesday morning. Clients of Phillips & Drew, brokers to the issue, will take up half these shares. The trust will be managed by a recently formed Edinburgh-based company, Hodgson Martin.

John Whitmore



Divorce

## Way through the tax minefield

Not long ago couples were advised to time their weddings to take advantage of the tax rules. Nowadays they might be told to time their divorces.

One solicitor had a client who left home on April 4, thus losing his married man's allowance for the new tax year beginning two days later.

Divorce is a financial minefield. For the rich, the charged accountant has inherited the mantle of the private detective. Sorting out their divorces is less a case of "who dunnit" than who did it. But the problems of divorcing couples with modest means may be equally complex. Indeed, it can be more difficult to do justice over a few pounds than over a few million.

What emerged from the recent one-day conference on the financial problems of divorce organized by the Company Communications Centre was that the tax specialist has at least as important a role in the grisly business as the lawyer.

A couple is treated as two separate people for tax purposes from the time one or other leaves home. The husband, however, keeps his higher married man's allowance for that year, but the wife is left for longer if he is keeping his wife by voluntary payments on which he gets no tax relief. Usually, there will be a maintenance agreement and the tax status of this frequently confuses people.

You can get normal tax relief on payments provided there is some evidence that these are part of an agreement, even if it is not yet enshrined in a court order. In the year of separation, then, a husband can claim both the married man's allowance and tax relief on these payments.

The present method of tax relief on maintenance causes much irritation between couples. The man deducts basic rate tax. If the wife is not liable for tax she claims this from her tax office. But she may need him to fill in a special form, R185, to show the deductions. Small maintenance payments of less than £21 a week to a child should be paid gross: the man will receive a tax adjustment.

The precise wording of court orders is very important. There may be a big tax saving to be made, for instance, where payments are made to a child rather than for a child. This means that the full single person's allowance can be claimed by the child. A divorcee with two young children, for instance, should not have to pay a penny in tax on maintenance of up to £4,895 a year if this wording is adopted. She would

have her own tax allowances of £2,145 plus a single person's allowance of £1,375 for each of the children. If the £4,895 was paid to her for herself and for the children she might be liable for more than £800 in tax.

Recipients of lavish payments have to be more circumspect about the way the money is divided. The Inland Revenue might pounce if it thinks that the income is divided up so as to avoid tax rather than reflecting the true cost of maintaining a child.

In any case maintenance paid to a child should be lodged in a separate bank account.

Tax problems can arise also over the matrimonial home. If, as often happens, the wife and children are going to stay in it there is the question of the mortgage. You can only get tax relief on the mortgage if you have an interest in the property or, if, as a wife, you are living in it even if you do not own it.

Arrangements where the husband keeps his interest in the home plus his mortgage liabilities after a divorce, intending to transfer the home to the children grown up, are now out of favour. More often the house, if it is not sold immediately, will be transferred to the wife. The mortgage should also be transferred because the husband will not be able to get tax relief on his payments. It would be better to have a maintenance agreement that included the cost of servicing the loan. He would obtain tax relief on the maintenance payments.

The other main reason why the husband should try to transfer the mortgage along with the house is that the Inland Revenue disallows tax relief on loans of more than £25,000, if the sum of his old mortgage and any new one exceeds this ceiling.

We are all so used to looking at the family home as a tax-free haven that it is often forgotten that after a divorce the problem of capital gains tax can rear its ugly head. Exemptions from capital gains tax hinge on the person using the residence as his principal private one. After divorce, there is no inter-spouse exemption between the couple. There is a further exemption that runs for two years after vacating the property. This should cover most cases but not if settlement of the matrimonial home drags on longer. A protracted wrangle could mean some capital gains tax liability for the husband when the property is transferred or sold.

Michael Williams

Insurance

## Be wary of bonus forecasts

If you are taking out a profit-sharing policy to repay a loan on a house, meet school fees or for any other purpose, you obviously want the best buy. But any three specialist insurance brokers of impeccable standing may each recommend a different life office.

That is no reflection on the brokers. It is impossible to look years into the future and estimate accurately what bonuses will be declared by individual life offices, and thus which office will give the best value for money over the term of a policy.

Unfortunately, however, that is just what some people try to do—and some offices appear to encourage it.

The usual type of profit-sharing life policy has a minimum guaranteed sum assured (which will be paid out if you die the day after arranging the policy) and periodically—usually annually or every three years—reversionary bonuses are added, increasing the value of the policy payable at maturity or earlier death.

Since a reversionary bonus has been declared, it cannot subsequently be withdrawn, whatever the economic conditions applying when the policy becomes a claim.

On top of the regular reversionary bonuses an increasing

number of life offices are declaring terminal bonuses. These are often regarded as a "final settle-up" with policyholders whose policies become claims.

A prospective policy holder is often given figures which show the possible value of a policy in the future, assuming that the current rate of reversionary bonus is maintained throughout, together with a figure which indicates the terminal bonus which would be payable on a similar policy maturing today.

It is easy to think that the sum total of the figures represents an estimate of the final value of the policy. Some people may even believe that it is a conservative estimate, since the trend has been for reversionary bonuses to increase.

Such thinking could prove dangerous. Many terminal bonuses are volatile. The rate of terminal bonus is often dependent largely on the capital value of the life office's investments. If their value drops, the terminal bonus may well come down as well.

Only a few offices which declare terminal bonuses still refuse to include any figure in their quotation forms. The Scottish Widows, with a very fine record, is one such office—although it has had to give way and agree to its terminal bonus

appearing in the various "league tables" and market surveys of the performance of life offices.

Today's rate of terminal bonus is no guide whatever to the amount of bonus which may be payable in the future. Nobody can tell what economic conditions will be like in the years ahead.

At one time it was never really expected that a first-class life office would cut its rate of reversionary bonus—although, of course, future rates were in no way guaranteed. Now, however, that is a possibility although not through any failure on the part of the life offices.

Today's record bonus levels have been achieved mainly as a result of exceptionally high rates of interest. If inflation comes down (as we all hope it will), interest rates can be expected to drop. This could well result, in due course, in some life offices cutting their rates of bonus. High rates of interest are needed to maintain present rates of bonus.

But, with lower levels of inflation, lower bonus rates may, of course, be worth more in purchasing power than bonus rates which are artificially large as a result of high inflation.

John Drummond

## Four into three won't go?

The terms of the offer by Fildes Shipping and So-On for Great Rockall and Hongkong Investment Trust have been announced, amid great excitement in the financial press. The bid of 255p a share put a value of £53m on Great Rockall at current market levels, the equivalent of 255p a share for the Fildes Shipping and So-On.

On the announcement, the price of Great Rockall rose majestically from 190p to 225p while that of Fildes Shipping remained imperturbable at 350p. Almost immediately, conflicting statements were issued from the rival camps. Lord Trine of Crickehowell, chairman of Great Rockall, said that the "Great Rockall" bid was saved for the nation from these pampers of Asia. An offer from that quarter would be laughable if it wasn't tragic.

Sir Too Non-U, inscrutable chairman of Fildes Shipping and So-On for the equity of Great Rockall & Hongkong Investment Trust were tabled and considered. The chairman stated that he would urge with all his power that the offer should be rejected, particularly as the Sicklepath community had sold the exploration rights to one half of the Great Grimpen Mire to its subsidiary, Great Rockall and Hongkong Mining Co. If the bid went through it would mean that the whole of Dartmoor would be swarming with Chinese in a flash, moreover having served in the Hongkong Heavy Hussars knew what that meant, like before you could say knife they would be growing opium poppies in the "golden triangle" between the villages of Sicklepath, Owlfoot and Great Zeal.

Kevin Luddite then informed the meeting that since by the end of the century Hongkong would be returned to mainland China, the British lease on the colony having run out, this would be a glorious opportunity to ensure



a foothold for the international communist revolution on Sicklepath soil, in centenary commemoration of the Long March of Enderberr, Wingeders from Exeter to Plymouth in 1881.

On a vote two members (Ada Blott and Kevin Luddite) were in favour of accepting the offer and two (Lt Col Rudolph Greg-Berington, Alistair Sibling) against, the chairman recording his casting vote to reject the bid on behalf of the fund.

Minutes of the 17th meeting of the Great Grimpen Mire Investment Club committee held on January 15, 1981.

Present: Kevin Luddite (in the chair), Ada Blott, Alistair Sibling (alternate secretary).

1. Apologies for absence due to influenza were received from Lt Col Rudolph Greg-Berington, Lady Baskerville, Reginald Pluckitt, Prison Officer "Wormwood" Scrubbs, Brian Thrift, Sam Spender, the Rev Basil Quicke, and Agatha Sibling.

2. It was noted that the secretary, Agatha Sibling, had under rule 10 (A) nominated her nephew, Alistair Sibling, as alternate to act as secretary at the meeting and vote on her behalf.

3. The offer documents from Fildes Shipping and So-On for the equity of Great Rockall and Hongkong Investment Trust were tabled and considered. On a vote of two Ada Blott and Kevin Luddite to one (Alistair Sibling) it was agreed to accept the share exchange offer of three Fildes Shipping shares for every four Great Rockall shares.

4. There being no other business, the meeting closed at 5.20 p.m.

This was merely the beginning of a conflict that was to cleave the village in two over the coming weeks. You have been warned.

Francis Kinsmon

**AN OFFER FROM M&G UNIT TRUSTS**

Unit trusts provide constant supervision of your investment by professional fund managers, and the risk of loss by investing in a wide spread of different companies. M&G has founded unit trusts in Britain's new managed unit trust funds totalling over £700,000,000.

Unit trusts are a long-term investment and not suitable for money you may need at short notice.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

The four M&G unit trusts described below have particular appeal in the present investment climate. Use the forms below to buy units in the Fund of your choice.

**GILDED SECURITIES** A new Fund with the aim of providing a high income as well as prospects of capital growth from investment in a portfolio of Gilt-Edged Securities, Treasury Bonds & Co. Distribution Dates: Income units only. The last day of March, June, September and December. First distribution date for new investors: 31st March 1981.

**NEW INCOME FUNDS** A high and increasing income need not jeopardise prospects of capital growth. The Fund aims for a yield normally between 50% and 75% higher than that of the FT Actuaries All-Share Index, and income distributions to unit holders have increased each year since the Fund was formed. Investors: Clydesdale Bank Limited. Distribution dates (income units only):

READ THIS TABLE BEFORE INVESTING	GILT	HIGH INCOME	RECOVERY	JAPAN AND GENERAL
Launch date	DEC '80	APRIL '69	MAY '69	APRIL '71
and price equivalent	50p	50p	124p	50p
Price of Income units at 28th January 1981 and estimated current gross yield	50.9p	104.2p	140.5p	179.6p
	11.52%	11.32%	6.25%	0.81%
Percentage change in Fund offer price since launch date	+1.8%	+108.4%	+1024.0%	+259.2%
Percentage change in FT Ordinary Index over same period	-3.4%**	-1.4%	+11.9%	+184.3%†

\*Percentage change since launch date. Income units were not available for Fund launch. M&G FT Ordinary Index % change takes no account of reinvested income. \*\*FT Government Securities Index. †The New York Times.

From £1000

Investment in M&G Unit Trusts is subject to the usual risks of investment in the stock market. The value of the units may rise or fall. The M&G Group, Three New Street, London EC4A 3DF. Tel: 01-405-4500.

PLEASE INVEST IN ACCUMULATION OR INCOME units (delete as applicable or Accumulation units will be issued if the Fund or Funds covered below (in equal proportions unless otherwise indicated) at the price ruling on receipt of this application. If no Fund is selected, your money will be invested in the M&G High Income Fund. Minimum £1,000 in any one Fund.)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

POST CODE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**THE M&G GROUP**

هكذا من الأصل







## Foreign exchange report

## Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

[illegible]



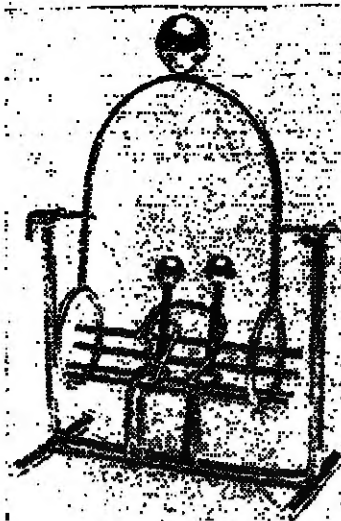
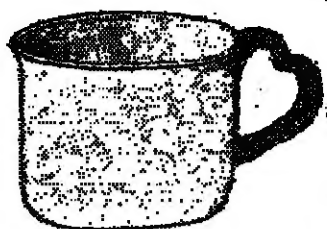
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan. 26. Dealings End, Feb. 6. § Contango Day, Feb. 9. Settlement Day, 10.  
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

5 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous day

[illegible]



# Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing



Six months ago Mrs Margaret James was desperate to match some Denby stone-ware which is no longer available in the shops so she advertised in her local paper in South Devon. Enough people responded to enable her to make up her service and she realized that perhaps there are enough lonely oddments sitting about in cupboards all round the country just waiting to be turned back into whole sets.

So she started her China Matching Service, logging the items of china and stoneware people want to dispose of or collect, pairing them where possible and putting buyers and sellers in touch by telephone or post.

One of the most interesting requests she has had so far is from someone emigrating to Australia who has broken one cup from a Paragon coffee set made when the Queen was born. Mrs James's idea is too new to make the matching of very old china likely but you never know—your grandmother's tea set might have some value if only you could track down the missing cream jug, so the £3 membership fee for six months could prove an investment. For more information send an a/c to China Matching Service, Tamarisk, Warren Road, Kingsbridge, South Devon.

All the rest of the world may love a lover, but in these days of economic stress I am particularly partial to a success story, notably when it comes from a depressed area like Nottingham, where closeness have lately been commonplace.

Two young designers are helping to reverse the trend. Until last September they had been working from home "making things for friends". Then, as more and more requests came in they decided that maybe they could make a living if they were prepared to do what the flagging companies around them were failing to do—individual small orders.

They call themselves Printer's Devil and their speciality is in decorative lettering used as borders or as all-over patterns on natural fabrics.

There are four basic colour and word choices. Hot Pot comes in red, orange and brown, Brown Bread in shades of brown, Plum Pie in blues, maroons and plum and Apple Crumble in honey and apple green—all on natural calico.

An apron, for instance, with the words Hot Pot repeated as a border design on bib, pocket and hem costs £3.95, a quilted place mat 8 x 11in, printed all over with the same words, is £1.75. Add 50p in each case for P & P.

There is also a range of padded aprons at £12.50 and pillowcases in fine cotton at £8.50 a pair, all of which can be printed with names to order or with hearts for the time being. They are prepared to print anything for anyone, which will please a reader who asked recently if anyone prints tea towels to order. I didn't know of Deborah Arrowsmith and Eileen Harris at the time, but now I can send similar requests to Printer's Devil, Shareplace, 13-15 Bridlesmith Gate, Nottingham.

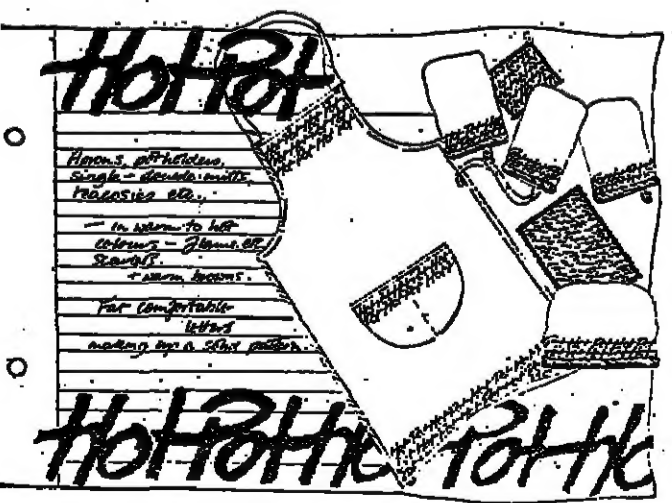


Photographs by Peter Alahurt

A few years ago there was a feminist Welsh takeover bid for St Valentine's day. I don't remember all the details, but the lady's name was Dwywen and she won her sainthood in Anglesy in the fourth century by turning a pursuer into a block of ice. More than 4,000 St Dwywen cards were sold in her honour, which nevertheless is a messy number compared with the 12 million cards bought in the name of that old third-century priest, Valentine.

Probably most lovers find it more appropriate to celebrate their suffering in the name of one who was martyred on the eve of a festival to Pan than to pay homage to a girl who had brought to a fine art the medieval equivalent of having a headache.

Below: calico apron printed in red, orange and brown with the words Hot Pot, £3.95 from Printer's Devil, Nottingham.



Families who make regular use of a chip pan may like to consider a new simple safety precaution—a glass fibre smothering cloth to hang by the stove for emergency use. In a pack with a quick-release action it leaves the user holding the tapes so that the hands are protected when covering a blaze.

More than 1,600 people are burned in cooker fires each year and one of the most usual mistakes they make is to try to carry the burning pan outside,

which increases the danger of spillage. Smothering is an effective way of extinguishing fat fires and glass fibre withstands heat which would melt an aluminium pan or set light to a tea towel. The woven glass is like a rough towel to touch and washes for re-packing.

The Fire Smothering Cloth is made by Rentokil and is available in hardware shops at about £3 or by mail order from Kiln Products, Kilt House, Upper Hartfield, East Sussex TN7 4DY at £8.85.

The extraordinary thing about today's Valentines is not their lack of romance—wilt can be a very attractive substitute—but their sheer plurality. It is apparently no longer enough to have single hearts on offer. You can now buy boxes of writing paper and cards polka-dotted all over—does anyone know eight people at a time to whom undying declarations of love, or even intimations of immortality, would be appropriate?

If so, then a box of eight red cards printed with a plethora of white hearts at £1.44 plus £1 p&p may be useful, or a box of 12 sheets of white writing paper decorated with a shiny red heart and a tiny green one at the top, plus envelopes and, for the undisciplined writer, plain continuation sheets, £2.95 plus £1.50 p&p. These are both from Paperchase, Tottenham Court Road, London W1.

Liberty, too, have some attractively designed packs of stationery by Suzy Paperette. A folder holding 10 white sheets

topped with red hearts, five cards, four heart stickers and 15 envelopes lined with hearts costs £2.75 plus 55p p&p. Another by the same company contains 10 square sheets bordered with little red hearts and green leaves, like ardent tulips, with bright red envelopes, £1.10 plus £1 p&p from Paperchase.

As for Valentine's gifts, the collective mood seems to vary from year to year. Sometimes extravagant gestures are in vogue, sometimes romantic offerings. This year it is the original thought that counts—no padded boxes of chocolates, for instance, but a heart-shaped Neuchâtel cheese, boxed and posted by Rilla and Cox, 5 Theberton Street, London N1, for £2.50 or boxed with a bottle of champagne, £12 from Harrods.

Some other entertaining tokens of love are illustrated, among them the Mel Calman scarf created by Liz da Costa, who produced the illuminated jewelry featured in our Christmas Shoparound. Liz is a remarkably versatile theatre

designer who has collected a group of gifted and original craftspeople round her who produce all sorts of amazing objects from soft pianos to metal lobsters to leave lurking at the side of your swimming pool.

Her knitted scarf is available in white with black cartoon figures and red hearts—orders by next Tuesday for delivery on Valentine's day, anonymously or with a message of your choice. Otherwise, if time is no object, you can have it made up in any colours you prefer, or you could choose your own favourite Calman figure with a message or initials to make it more personal. Liz da Costa will also design knitwear or copy an existing design you may have had for years and is now unavailable. You can discuss your ideas with her on 01-727 9643 or write to 7 Ladbroke Terrace, London W11.

For those who insist on sticking to the letter of the love there are two anthologies this year. The first will appear in appearance and in content to

the traditional romantic as its binding has the appearance of gold embossed burgundy suede and the poems, edited by Helen Exley, have been chosen from Robert Burns to James Joyce simply because they say, in a variety of ways, "I love you".

Called Love, a Celebration, it costs £3.95 from branches of Boon and W. E. Smith from the beginning of February or is available from Exley Publications, 12 Ye Corner, Chalk Hill, Watford, WD1 4BS, at £4.45 including postage.

The other is for younger readers with perhaps a slightly less reverential approach to love—the Penguin paperback version of The British In Love by Jilly Cooper, who will be signing copies (£1.25) at Bakers, Kensington High Street, London, W8, between 12.30 and 1.30 pm on February 12. It is a collection of her favourite love prose and poetry and the only reason I suggest it for the young is that their parents probably bought the hardback version last year. This

one includes a special Valentine envelope to mail it in.

In either format it is totally delightful, including the romantic, the intense, the tragic and the absurd. I wouldn't have left a single piece out and there is only one other I would have included, so I offer it to you now. It is from Dorothy Parker's quarrelsome Calman comic which concludes: "And love is a thing that can never go wrong—and I am Marie of Romania."

The cost of keeping warm this winter, which has not been fixed yet, is a bit of a worry. I am not alone, it seems, for the Electricity Consumers' Council has been inundated with plaintive calls from users wondering if their meters have been monitoring their owners' pulse rate by mistake.

The thought of increased tariffs in April is even more frightening, so where can money be saved? Clearly no one is going to watch less television to save pennies, nor count the cost of using a fridge, but it could be better to cut down, just by being careful, on appliances like heaters and tumble driers. Here, based on the current standard cost of the unit, £4.24p (the proposed increase is to 4.5p in April) is what average household appliances cost to run for one hour. Figures are to the nearest decimal.

Fan heater, 2kw, 8.5p, infra red or radiant heater, 1kw, 4p, 3kw radiator, 12p, tumble dryer, 8.5p, colour television 7p, stereo 5p, record player 2p, iron 2p, vacuum cleaner 2p, 100w light bulb 4p. Boiling one pint of water in a kettle costs 3p.

Cookers will depend on how carefully you use them—the average cost for one week's meals for a family of four is £1.06, a dishwasher costs 10p per load, automatic washing machine once a week for a family of four 38p, twin tub 50p, a shower a day for a week, 21p.

These figures are based on averages worked out by the Electricity Council, who produce a leaflet showing the costs of several other appliances, too. It is available from your local board. The Consumers' Council, however, thinks they err on the low side. Many people, they say, underestimate the length of time appliances are left on and in their leaflet they show some cumulative costs which are more realistic.

According to these, a 2kw fire kept on for five hours every evening from September to March costs £72, a cooker £80

Above from left to right: White pottery mug with red rim and red heart handle, £4.95 from a selection at Flip, 125 Long Acre, London WC2.

Floppy satin pierrot in black and white or black and red, £15 including p & p from Rainbow, 5 Cockfosters Parade, Cockfosters, Hertfordshire.

Walking sandwich board man comes with a pencil to write your own erasable message. Wind him up and send him toddling off across the bar, desk or dinner table, £7.50 from Presents, 129 Sloane Street, London SW1; Tisbury Joke Shop, 8 Long Street, Tetbury, Gloucestershire.

Pair of swinging lovers—executives of courses—in chromed metal, £3.50 plus 65p p & p from Dickens & Jones, Regent Street, London W1.

Wine red wooden heart, one inch wide, with two tiny Liberty print dolls, £3.25 from branches of Liberty, by the end of next week, or by mail order (£5p p&p) from Liberty, Regent Street, London W1.

Far left: Heart printed shift designed to wear in bed but just as pretty on the beach or with jeans. Called My Funny Valentine by Jennifer Dels in poly/cotton, small, medium and large, £7.95. In multicolours on white from Fanwicks, Bond Street (who will mail orders for 50p p&p), Brent Cross, Oxford and Windsor.

Left: Delightful Mel Calman characters thinking hearts at each from the ends of a knitted scarf. In white, black and red, £18 to order from The Workshop, 83 Lamb Conduit Street, London WC1, or by mail order (add 75p p&p) from the designer, Liz da Costa, 7 Ladbroke Terrace, London W11.

Blouson in suede finished triacetate and polyester, safari green, grey or beige, sizes 10 to 16, £16.99 from major branches of Marks and Spencer.

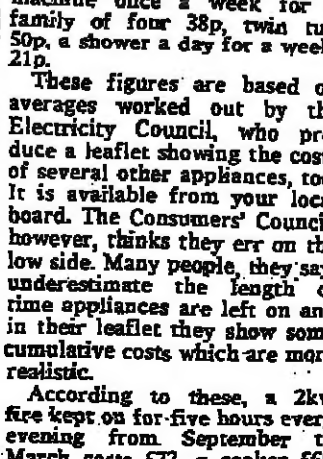
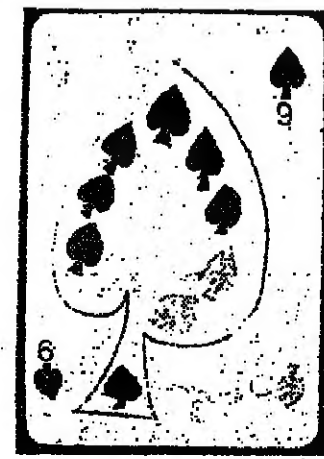
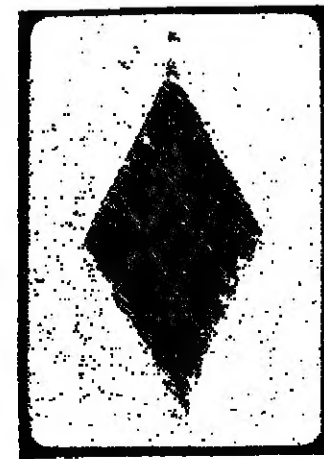
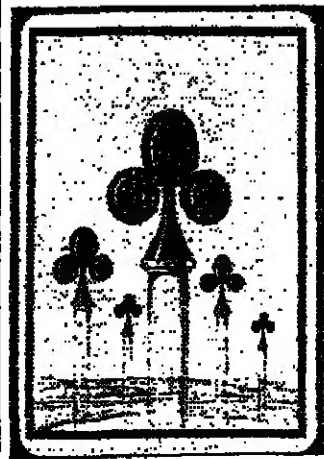
The system, in two packs lasting five days each, is called Lesson One and Lesson Two. The first pack provides a vanilla-flavoured drink plus one bran biscuit twice a day, each "meal" providing 150 calories. The second gives you two biscuits at each meal and a choice of vanilla, strawberry or chocolate drink, making 500 calories. Suggestions are included for a 500-calorie real meal per day.

Having tried the diet for 10 days I can report that although the combination of liquid and solid gives you the illusion of a normal meal, it certainly doesn't last long and I found it extremely difficult to stick to. I was not so much hungry as very unsatisfied, and although I lost 3½lb in the first five days—weight I had put on over Christmas—not another ounce budged. I have to add that I was about 10lb overweight, which is much more difficult to lose than a stone or more, and I went out to dinner once during the second Lesson and had wine, which probably ruined the effect.

However, I have tried liquid protein diets before and I do not find this system one of the more satisfying ones. SlimGard at £2.79, Boots' own Shapers, £2.49, and Lesson One and Two each at £3.45 (Boots prices this week) all have very similar formulas and pretty much the same effect on me. The only one I have found satisfying and therefore more effective is Unifit's RPD, £2.15.

Conclusion: any of these diets will work for five days if you really stick to the rules. Therefore they can be helpful in giving you a bit of encouragement and in shrinking your capacity, so making it easier to maintain a lower intake of ordinary food until you reach your desired weight. I'm convinced that not enough research has been done into the variations of individual metabolisms and you just have to find out by trial and error what suits you.

On the other hand, you could give up the unequal struggle, take to wearing large capes and practise impersonations of Margaret Rutherford. That's what I plan to do when I'm about 60—unless my hips reach that figure first.



a year, a tumble dryer used three hours a week for a year, £28, a 7 cu ft freezer £28. And even they are underestimating, as they are using a 4p per unit base. At 4.24p the cost of their cooker, for instance, goes up to £63.66 and may rise to £73.50 after April.

Their leaflet also gives tips on keeping heating under control and insulating against waste, so it may give you some ideas. You can get a copy by sending an a/c to The Electricity Consumers' Council, 119 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5PY.







